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Palestinian Affairs

'Major' Palestinian Diplomatic Reshuffle Noted

JN1202193490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] The newspaper AL-KHALIJ has reported that Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, has decided to undertake a major reshuffle of the PLO Political Department.

The al-Shariqah-based newspaper today cited informed sources in Tunis as saying that Yasir 'Arafat has appointed Major General Muhammad Jihad, Fatah Central Committee member, Palestinian ambassador to Kuwait, replacing 'Awni Battash, and has transferred Ibrahim al-Sus from France to Oman.

The newspaper points out the reshuffle also includes Palestinian ambassadors to Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Spain, Yemen Arab Republic, and Cyprus.

PLO's Khalaf Criticizes Jewish Immigration, U.S.

JN1202173290 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member brother Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] has stressed the PLO's rejection of any imposition of trusteeship on the PLO by the United States. In a statement to the Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ issued in Manama today, he warned the U.S. Administration against signing the so-called decree restricting the PLO in its commitments, which was recently approved by the U.S. Congress. He said this decree, which is part of a law approved by the U.S. State Department and submitted to U.S. President George Bush for his signature, means that there will be no Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, but only an attempt to impose U.S. trusteeship on the PLO—not just a general trusteeship, but a greatly detailed trusteeship.

Brother Abu-Iyad also affirmed that the Jews' immigration and settlement into the occupied territories violate the Egyptian-Israeli Camp David accords. He also expressed the hope that Egypt will reconsider this issue. He said that sending between 600,000 and 2 million Jews to Israel and the occupied Arab territories within the next few years violates the Soviet Union's principles represented in the need for Israel to withdraw from occupied Arab territories.

Regarding the Palestinian intifadah, brother Abu-Iyad stated that the intifadah will continue as long as there are youths and stones in the occupied territories. He also described Arab support for the intifadah as insufficient for the intifadah to continue.

Abu-al-Za'im Assails Israel's 'Imperialist Policy'

JN0602133590 Amman AL-QUDS in Arabic 5 Feb 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Brother Abu-al-Za'im ['Atallah 'Atallah], commander in chief of the Fatah Corrective Movement and the PLO, has emphasized the gravity of the current issues facing the Palestinian cause. Moreover, he called for the adoption of a serious, decisive Arab position capable of grasping the upcoming fateful threats and prepare for deterring them.

Abu-al-Za'im also said the current stage is one of the most critical stages facing our Palestinian cause. It seems there is a serious battle to rearrange the situation in the region and change its status quo, Abu-al-Za'im maintained. He said although this situation has caused alarm among the Arab sides and forced them to tackle the danger facing them, a collective position is still needed to ward off the danger threatening the Arab nations' destiny and future generations.

While chairing the periodic meeting of the Corrective Movement's Higher Information Council, Abu-al-Za'im added: The international transformations have changed the existing formula in the Middle East region and decreased the level of international attention to find a just, comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. What took place and is still taking place in the Soviet Union and East European countries has not had any positive result for the Palestinian cause, and, in turn, the good of the Arabs. It seems that the Soviet Union and the socialist bloc countries have eliminated all the red lines which existed in the past concerning their dealings with the conflict in our region. In addition, the Soviet Union's preoccupation with its internal problems has enabled the United States to unilaterally redraw the map of the region with the assistance of the Soviet Union itself. In fact, the Soviet Union no longer influences the U.S. decision.

Brother Abu-al-Za'im underscored the gravity of the mass emigration flowing from the Soviet Union and East European countries into occupied Palestine, pointing out that Israel has allocated $1 billion to settle the new immigrants and, at the same time, launched an international Jewish campaign to raise $3-5 billion in order to implement its plan to absorb 300,000 Jews inside the occupied West Bank and Gaza strip within the next few years.

Abu-al-Za'im also indicated that there is an Israeli plan to deport the Arabs of Lod, Yafo, and Ramla to the West Bank. This, Abu-al-Za'im held, reveals clearly the imperialist policy Israel is adopting through its aggressive, settlement expansion, not only at the expense of what is left of Palestine, but also at the expense of more Arab lands adjacent to our occupied territories in Palestine. Besides, this clearly reveals the mendacity of Israel's allegation on its desire for peace, and proves that Israel's allegation is no more than a propaganda move to brighten the image of the Israeli leaders, nothing more.

This is because the Israeli leaders, in reality, have agreed not to return to the borders of 1967, not to abandon Arab Jerusalem, and to reject the establishment of a Palestinian state. They have agreed on the need for keeping Israel strong at all costs, and on the call for the Jews' return—all the Jews—to the land of occupied Palestine. [passage omitted]

Political Editor Warns of 'Israeli Monster'

JN0302094690 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1945 GMT 2 Feb 90

[WAFA political editor's article: "The Arabs and the Responsibility for Emigration"]

[Text] Once again, we are speaking about the Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel. This emigration, which prompts grave misgivings, greatly harms our Palestinian people and threatens their security and safety on the soil of their homeland. We do not know if our Soviet friends are sufficiently aware of the seriousness of this influx of Jewish people who have nowhere else to go but Israel. Israel has started to prepare plans to exploit the immigration by building terrorist military settlements to settle Soviet Jews, thus erecting a terrorist barrier not only against the intifadah but also to swallow up more Palestinian and Arab lands and uproot the Palestinians [words indistinct]. We do not think that our Soviet comrades believe that the rights of individuals take precedence over the rights of nations, or would allow the emigration rights of these individuals to become a violation of Palestinian rights and a threat to the Palestinian people's future.

Indeed, we do not believe that our Soviet comrades [words indistinct]. We believe that we should do more than address appeals on this issue to the Soviet Union, with which we have close relations [words indistinct] harm the Palestinian people's supreme interests. We must go beyond this and issue Arab and international appeals for immediate action to halt this blatant violation of Palestinian rights—a violation that is an additional threat and encourages the terrorist and racist enemy to commit further terrorist massacres against our people throughout Palestine.

No one can ignore the impending danger. We cannot close our eyes to these serious violations whose devastating results darken the horizon and threaten every effort to attain a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East—efforts that are clearly embodied in the the PLO's peace initiative.

It seems that many parties, especially the United States, are using all the influence they can muster to maintain the status quo, with all the barbarism, terrorism, and threats to peace that this entails not only in the Middle East but throughout the world. From this premise, the responsibility is not the Soviet Union's alone, although it is the party primarily responsible for the emigration. The responsibility is that of the entire international community; the United Nations, the Security Council, and the peoples and countries of the world at large. First and foremost, it is the responsibility of all Arabs from the ocean to the Gulf. If U.S. hostility continues and Israeli oppression and terrorism continue with this same intensity against the Palestinian people, then the expansion of the terrorist Israeli monster, which squats on the U.S. military arsenal, will not be stopped by the borders of Palestine.

If we remember that the borders of the Zionist state continue to be from the Euphrates to the Nile, then we must not forget that no one can guarantee the future if, God forbid, the terrorist and demented dream comes true.

Algeria

President, Ministry Welcome Mandela's Release

LD1202055590 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] On the great occasion [of the release of Nelson Mandela] President Chadli Bendjedid has sent a message of congratulations to the leader Nelson Mandela in which he mainly said: The Algerian people and myself received with great joy and emotion news of your release after 27 years of detention. All of Africa believes inhuman detention is a violation of justice. The brother president has extended, in his own name and on behalf of the Algerian people, an invitation to Mandela to visit Algeria.

The official spokesman of the Foreign Affairs Ministry made a statement this evening: Algeria received with great satisfaction news of the release of the great African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela. It believes this historic event is a major victory for the hero Mandela himself. Algeria supports the rights of the people of South Africa and it reaffirms—as President Chadli Bendjedid recently reiterated in a message to Oliver Tambo, president of the African National Congress—its constant backing until it achieves its just victory. [passage omitted]

Ghazali Comments on Lebanon, Jewish Emigration

JN1202171490 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 11 Feb 90 p 4

[Interview with Algerian Foreign Minister Sayed Ahmed Ghazali by Fatimah Mansur—date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [Mansur] How do you assess the Lebanese situation in light of recent developments?

[Ghazali] We have made a detailed assessment in the report we forwarded to the leaders of the tripartite committee. The report explains the activities of the committee, the phases it has undergone, and the achievements it has scored. It also mentions what was not achieved and the reasons for it. The report also includes questions on the obstacles that have prevented full implementation of the al-Ta'if accord, and suggests what the Arabs can do to support the legitimate government, not only by securing political Arab and international support, but also through finding ways to help the legitimate government solve problems, establish authority, and lessen the suffering of the Lebanese people.

The report also proposes financial assistance, which is needed by the legitimate government. Indeed, there was an Arab summit resolution to this effect before the formation of the tripartite committee, but it was not implemented. We therefore proposed holding an extraordinary summit, especially since the committee was supposed to complete its mission six months after its establishment; that is, toward the end of last November.

[Mansur] It has been reported that the tripartite committee has thus far failed in most of its efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis because of its failure to determine the reasons for the continuation of the crisis. While observers see a link between a solution to the Middle East crisis and a solution to the Lebanese problem, the committee believes that the crisis can be solved internally. What is your comment?

[Ghazali] What we have achieved is not insignificant, and it is therefore not possible to talk about failure. We managed to achieve a cease-fire after 15 years of fighting, and we revived the state by electing president, parliament, and other institutions.

The al-Ta'if agreement is aimed at creating new circumstances that would help the initiation of a solution. The first aim is to enable the Lebanese to regain their say in matters, especially since the Lebanese people's tragedy heightened with the absence of the legitimate government. The final word was for the militias and various forces, apart from the foreign troops.

We did not approach the problem as a conflict between Muslims and Christians. We looked at it from the perspective of the lack of balance among the Lebanese people. Some group of the Lebanese is deprived of its basic political and social rights. We therefore said that Lebanon's problem can be solved by finding new ground that enables the Lebanese to reassert their authority. And hence came the preconditions of reviving the state, gradually establishing its authority, and cooperating with Syria for a gradual withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Lebanon.

For a certain period of time—and the truth must be said—Syria cooperated with us and said that it was ready to respect its obligations in this respect. But we have not reached that level; that is, the stage to implement this article of the al-Ta'if agreement. This was because of the emergence of 'Awn's problem. Through his position, 'Awn has prevented full implementation of the al-Ta'if accord.

[Mansur] Mr. Minister, 'Awn's problem still exists. How can it be solved?

[Ghazali] We better leave him until he departs.

[Mansur] But what if he continued his declared position and stayed at the B'abda Palace—and he seems determined to do this?

[Ghazali] If he does not leave, there will be no solution other than using the means that every state has the right to use to establish its authority.

But up to this point, dealing with 'Awn's problem has not reached an impasse. 'Awn cannot continue his position because this would actually lead to the partitioning of Arab Lebanon—something unacceptable by both the Lebanese and the Arabs.

[Mansur] Some people say the tripartite committee made a mistake when it conducted a dialogue with the deputies and overlooked 'Awn. What is your comment?

[Ghazali] We conducted a dialogue with 'Awn before the deputies. This was not only verbal, but we suggested to him in writing he should lead national reconciliation. King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, sent 'Awn a letter on his own behalf and on behalf of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and King Hassan, in which he suggested he should come to Saudi Arabia, Algeria, or Morocco to lead the national reconciliation process. 'Awn has rejected this proposal in writing.

[Mansur] Why did he reject it?

[Ghazali] Frankly, 'Awn does not want Lebanon's unity. He wants to be president of Lebanon, and we will have a governing group and a governed group.

[Mansur] In your opinion, how long will the current status quo last?

[Ghazali] This question must be posed to 'Awn, because he has the answer.

[Mansur] Does this mean the solution to the Lebanese crisis will take time?

[Ghazali] The solution to the Lebanese crisis may take years to be achieved.

[Mansur] Do you mean the solution to the Lebanese crisis is connected to the solution of the Middle East question?

[Ghazali] The Lebanese crisis is indeed the victim of the Middle East question.

[Mansur] In your opinion, do you believe the ongoing solution to the Lebanese crisis is connected to the start of a solution to the Middle East question, especially since 15 years of Lebanese war have proved the continuity of the crisis is not related to the presence of certain people? Hasn't this also proven all bets on whether the removal of this or that resident will achieve a solution to the Lebanese crisis have failed?

[Ghazali] Israel's strategy states there can be no solution in Lebanon before the Middle East question is resolved. Israel aims to dismantle and fragment the Arab world. What Israel has done in Lebanon, it may do tomorrow in Syria, Jordan, or any other Arab country. Yes, Israel has worked to weaken the Lebanese state and uses this as an excuse for its presence in Lebanon, because instability in that country gives Israel the justification to say its security is not guaranteed.

[Mansur] Regarding the recent developments between General 'Awn and Dr. Samir Ja'ja' in East Beirut: How do you explain this conflict?

[Ghazali] It is a personal dispute over who assumes power in the Christian areas.

[Mansur] But it is observed the tripartite committee and the Arabs only monitor and follow up the events between 'Awn and Ja'ja' in East Beirut without taking any real action to stop the fighting. What is your comment?

[Ghazali] The tripartite committee's role is to do everything possible to help the legitimate Lebanese government spread its control and, at a later state, dissolve all militias. What is happening between 'Awn and Ja'ja' therefore is none of its business.

Here we can say these events between 'Awn and Ja'ja' have some positive aspects, although they regrettably also have resulted in the deaths of more than 300 people. The events in East Beirut will put things in their proper context, especially since the Europeans think the Lebanese crisis is the result of a conflict between Christians and Muslims. What is happening in East Beirut these days proves to them the opposite. It also shows the Vatican, which clings to unity among Christians alone, that the only fruitful unity is the unity behind the legitimate Lebanese government, not behind 'Awn, who now is murdering and committing crimes against Christians. He therefore is unfit to lead Lebanon. He even is unfit to lead the Christians.

We are sorry about what is happening in East Beirut. What happens there justifies our fears, which we mentioned before. Time is not in our favor, and circumstances are getting more complicated. We had clashes between Amal and another party; now, we have clashes with 'Awn and Ja'ja'; and tomorrow, God knows with whom.

[Mansur] The al-Ta'if agreement gained wide support among Lebanese, Arab, and international spheres. Only 'Awn did not support it because his only demand is Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon. He also says that following this withdrawal he will leave B'abda Palace. Why is this demand not met for the sake of a quick solution to the problem?

[Ghazali] 'Awn tried to resort to violence and fight the Syrians. What was the result? There are 45,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon, while there were only 30,000 before 'Awn took his hostile position. This is the result. 'Awn accuses the tripartite committee of the Syrians' presence in Lebanon. We did not bring the Syrians into Lebanon. It is the Christians who first asked the Syrians in. Next, the Muslims asked for that. Now they want the Syrians to leave. I said that we have not brought the Syrians into Lebanon. For the first time in the history of the Lebanese crisis, a written agreement obliging the Syrians to withdraw has been signed.

[Mansur] In one of your replies you said that there is a positive Syrian response to this point. What kind of response is it?

[Ghazali] Yes, there has been a positive Syrian response to us at least since last September. They affirmed that they would be ready to withdraw within two years if a legitimate government prevails in Lebanon. Frankly,

Christians and Muslims alike are dissatisfied with the Syrian presence, but at the same time, they believe that only the Syrian forces can help Lebanon dissolve the militias and install the legitimate government. In al-Ta'if, we declared that this was our solution regarding the Syrians, but no one proposed any other solution. Yes, the al-Ta'if agreement provided a new atmosphere and a new basis in Lebanon regarding the friends or the departure of the Syrians. Will the Syrians fulfill their promise? Let us test them and also test their ability and good intentions. 'Awn has prevented us from achieving this goal: testing the Syrians.

When Syrian officials did not respond before September 1989, we were harsh to them. However, we must admit that after September, the Syrians made political commitments to our heads of state in which they expressed their complete willingness to implement what was agreed upon in al-Ta'if regarding their troops' withdrawal from Lebanon within two years if the legitimate government spreads its control over all Lebanese territories.

[Mansur] In order to ease the minds of those who want a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon, has the tripartite committee decided to take tangible steps if the Syrians did not keep their promises?

[Ghazali] President Chadli Bendjedid said that we Algerians admit that so far, the Syrians are committed with us to the issue of their troops withdrawal from Lebanon. If they do not keep their promises, we will support Lebanon. There are some Lebanese brothers who say this is not the first agreement to be reached and this has happened many times with the issue of Syrian withdrawal. However we tell them that the al-Ta'if agreement has a framework that is different from all previous agreements.

[Mansur] Are there any expectations of a Syrian military action to "remove 'Awn" from B'abda Palace and hand it over to President al-Hirawi?

[Ghazali] I do not rule this out.

[Mansur] Does this mean that the al-Ta'if agreement will soon be implemented, and that the legitimate government will spread its authority over all areas in Beirut to start with?

[Ghazali] Logic says we should not rule out this possibility. Any sovereign state has the right to use force against a rebel. The al-Ta'if agreement is a peaceful line based on national reconciliation, but at the same time, it will allow the legitimate government to resort to every means to spread its authority. This is reality.

[Mansur] On the level of the Palestine question, what steps were taken by Algeria to check the emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine?

[Ghazali] After World War II, the Europeans, or rather the Western world, wanted to compensate the Jews for the persecution that afflicted them. Accordingly, they paid the bill to the Jews by giving them Palestine. Hence, the State of Israel came into existence. Today, another bill is being paid to Israel, also at the expense of the Palestinians.

We do not want to strain Arab relations with the USSR. They say: We acted in this regard—that is, the issue of Soviet Jews—out of respect for human rights, and we cannot prevent Jews from leaving the country at a time when we allow this freedom to all Soviet citizens. We tell them: Yes to human rights as you say, but there is another human being who is being deprived of his rights. It is the Palestinian who is entitled to obtain his rights. Consequently, we say that what is required is not to prevent Soviet Jews from leaving the USSR; what is required is that you not make deals with the Jews, Israel, or the United States regarding those who emigrate or settle. Such deals create an obligatory bridge between the USSR and Israel. Give the Soviet Jews the freedom to leave, and this does not mean implicating yourselves and making it easy for Shamir to achieve his aims.

[Mansur] What, in your opinion, are the negative repercussions of this emigration on the Palestinian people, the peace process, and the establishment of the Palestinian state?

[Ghazali] This emigration is a major disaster that may lead to even the severing of ties with all states involved. This is an issue of destiny for the Arabs, as it revives Jewish planning of a state from the Nile to the Euphrates.

[Mansur] Have you reached any agreement with the Soviet Union to check this emigration?

[Ghazali] Under the pretext of human rights, they continue to stress that they cannot prevent these Jews from leaving. We say to them: Let them leave, but give them the right to choose where to go.

[Mansur] They do not then have the freedom to choose where to go from the USSR?

[Ghazali] Currently, they are leaving without a passport but with a 3-month visa and a charter, thereby ending up compulsorily in Tel Aviv.

[Mansur] What is the USSR now required to do concerning this issue?

[Ghazali] What is required is that Soviet Jews who want to leave be given passports.

[Mansur] What about the Soviet Union's response to this Arab request?

[Ghazali] A committee was formed from four Arab countries, including Algeria, and will leave for Moscow as soon as possible.

[Mansur] Mr. Minister, now that Israeli intransigence toward the issue of a just settlement has become clear and in view of Baker's plan and U.S. intransigence

toward the issue of the PLO's participation in the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, is there still a chance for peace in the region?

[Ghazali] We support all that the Palestinians decide. We do not want to be more Palestinian than the Palestinians themselves. We support all that the PLO wants and decides. This is the Algerian stance. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Israel Reportedly Asked To Cancel Tourist Trips

NC1002151290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] According to press reports published in al-Dammam [in Saudi Arabia] today, the Egyptian Government has informed the Tel Aviv government that all Israeli tourist excursions to Egypt during the coming months should be canceled in the wake of the recent Israeli tourist bus incident in Ismailia.

Bus Incident in Egypt Strains PLO Relations

NC1002065490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] In Cairo yesterday, sources close to the Egyptian Government said that the fedayeen attack against the Israeli tourist bus in Ismailia has caused a strain in Egyptian-PLO relations. Meanwhile, the Islamic Jihad-Bayt al-Maqdis [Jerusalem] Movement claimed responsibility for the operation and denied that Egyptian authorities have arrested any of the fedayeen who carried it out.

Cairo To Take Stand on 'Extremist' Palestinians

JN1002184090 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 8 Feb 90 pp 1, 4

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Informed diplomatic sources in Cairo have stressed that President George Bush and the U.S. officials are currently making efforts to stop violent Israeli criticism of Egypt and to absorb indignation in Israel. The sources pointed out that the Egyptian position on the attack on the tour bus has contributed to preventing the escalation of tension in Egyptian-Israeli relations.

The sources added that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has restated his desire to meet with President Husni Mubarak to discuss the future of Egyptian-Israeli relations and to define future steps regarding the peace process.

AL-WAFD has learned that high-level directives have been issued to security organs to place the holders of some Arab states' passports arriving in Egypt under strict scrutiny and to carefully search them when they arrive at Egyptian ports and airports.

AL-WAFD also learned that consultations are currently being held among political leaderships in Egypt to adopt an appropriate stand toward some extremist Palestinian elements that pose threats to Egyptian interests, foremost among which are the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, which is led by Ahmad Jibril, and the groups led by George Habash and Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah].

AL-WAFD also learned that the PLO has expressed strong dissatisfaction with the continued attempts to cause harm to Egypt and to distort the Palestinian image before world public opinion and to brand it with terrorism.

Columnist Chides Baker's Message to Chedli Klibi

JN0902121290 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Feb 90 p 16

["Diary" column by Ahmad Baha'-al-Din: "The Crime of the Age: James Baker's Message"]

[Text] At a time when we are preoccupied with the concerns of the intifadah, as the crime of the age is being committed through an airlift of Soviet Jews from Moscow to Tel Aviv, as the United States is preventing Jews from emigrating there, and as movement toward the meeting of the tripartite Arab committee remains slow—let alone the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker sent a secret message to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi several days ago. What does Baker want?

James Baker is asking Arab countries to show their good intentions toward the peace process with Israel. Again? Yes, again and again. This time, James Baker makes specific proposals, or more accurately, two specific proposals: The first asks the Arab countries to cancel all their resolutions and laws on boycotting Israel! How? Once again, they treat us like children. Arab countries, except Egypt, are legally still in a state of war with Israel. The rule throughout the world and throughout history is that war ends and peace is established first and then the boycott is canceled—as soon as war ends and peace is established. This is what Egypt did. I do not know of one case in the world or in history in which a boycott was canceled before the war ended!

If all manifestations of the boycott are terminated—and that is not, however, a goal in itself—what will remain for peace and for efforts to achieve peace, and why then should Israel seek peace? The second proposal is stranger than the first. It asks Arab countries to abolish the UN resolution regarding Zionism as a racist movement and to persuade the 150 UN member states to do that! Is this the responsibility and duty of the Arab countries?

What for? For quelling the intifadah, killing men, women, and children, and demolishing houses; or for Shamir's rejection of the principle of "land for peace," his famous statement on evicting the Palestinians, his endeavors to receive millions of the Soviet Jews and

settle them in the West Bank after expelling its residents, and his refusal to allow the Palestinians to name their delegation to the talks?

Baker's message to the Arab League secretary general during the first month of 1990 is his gift to the Arab world in the 1990's! Has anyone imagined such a thing? I will send the text of the message to those who cannot believe it!

AL-AHRAM Warns of Israeli Settlement Strategy

NC0402105790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2232 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 3 Feb (MENA)—AL-AHRAM draws the Arab countries' attention to the fact that Israel is implementing a major scheme and strategy based on the two factors of defense and settlement in the occupied Arab territories.

In an editorial in Sunday's [4 February] edition, the paper says that the Israeli budget for the new fiscal year reveals the serious implications of this strategy. The paper notes that 60 percent of the draft budget has been earmarked for three closely related purposes: defense, dealing with the Palestinian intifadah; and settlement of new Soviet immigrants in the occupied Arab territories.

The paper explains that the draft budget reveals the link between defense and settlement. It states that Israel allocates a major part of its budget to acquiring arms, attempting to put down the intifadah, and settling Soviet Jews by means of direct expulsion that is applicable to all Palestinian residents in the occupied Arab territories.

The paper emphasizes that these signs, which are backed up by figures, leave it beyond dispute that something akin to a "general conspiracy" is under way against the Palestinians with the aim of creating a new historic catastrophe for the Arabs.

Jewish Immigration Likened to 1948 'Catastrophe'

NC0602110290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Commentary by Muhammad Sharaf: "Will the Catastrophe of 1948 Be Repeated With the Settlement of Soviet Jewish Immigrants in the Occupied Territories?"]

[Text] The recurring question with regard to the wide-scale emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, after the Soviet Union has lifted restrictions on this emigration and Israel has begun to settle them in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, is: Is there still any hope or real chance for peace in the Middle East in view of this serious turn of events?

The answer to this question is that the settlement of Soviet immigrants in the occupied territories, in large or small numbers, means that Israel is totally opposed to withdrawal from the occupied territories and to the exchange of land for peace. It is known that the exchange of land for peace is the concept on which the current peace efforts are based.

Some may point out that there are already many Jewish settlements in the West Bank and a few in the Gaza strip, and that therefore the problem is not new. The answer to this argument is that the settlements which have already been established in the occupied territories could not, despite the passage of many years, strike deep roots in the occupied territories. These settlements have not yet contributed to a real demographic change in these territories. The evidence for this is the continued Palestinian intifadah which is still going strong in its third consecutive year and which has turned the Jewish settlers into a mere auxiliary regiment of the occupation forces, a regiment whose presence is linked to the continuation of that occupation.

We are not in any way trying to minimize the grave consequences of the presence of the current settlements, or the fact that these settlements constitute a major stumbling block on the road to peace. We do, however, wish to stress that the new factor of the settlement of Soviet immigrants in the occupied territories is too reminiscent of the catastrophe of 1948, for it could lead to the Judaization of the remaining part of the Palestinian land. This development could also culminate in the actual establishment of greater Israel, which had so far been just an impossible dream. This could certainly end all hopes of and prospects for peace in the Middle East for many years to come.

Reports indicate that the United States has warned that Israel's building of settlements in the occupied territories constitutes a serious obstacle to the Middle East peace process and that the U.S. Administration will not provide any funds to finance the settlement of immigrants in the occupied territories. We have, for the sake of accuracy, to note that the U.S. statements in this regard concern only public U.S. funds. The U.S. Jewish lobby may still be able to collect hundreds of millions for this purpose. Furthermore, there are no restrictions on Israel's freedom to use U.S. aid in any way it wants. One must mention, however, that the unequivocal U.S. official opposition to Jewish settlement in the occupied territories is a positive factor of considerable worth to the peace process.

Reports also indicate that the Soviet Union is opposed to Israel's seizure of the occupied territories for settlement purposes. However, the situation calls for more than statements of goodwill on the part of either the United States or the USSR. The situation calls for effective action and tangible moves on the superpower and international levels.

Some striking remarks by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in which he tried to camouflage Israeli intentions in this regard are worth citing here. Faced with international pressure, Shamir said that the new immigrants have the right to choose where they want to settle. It is to

be recalled that the main theme of Israel's 1990-91 budget is the absorption of the intensive Soviet Jewish immigration.

What we have here is a serious situation in any event. Israel, with its settlement policy, is creating a ferment for national strife in the area that will not only involve the Palestinian and Israelis, but also the entire Arab people. This policy will also have a negative effect on international peace and security. Only decisive action by the Arab countries and people, the superpowers, and the entire international community could avert a terrible catastrophe in the region and thus uphold legitimate international norms and the cause of peace.

World Media React to Jewish Immigration Issue

NC0202202890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Paris, 2 Feb (MENA)—Western newspapers in general and the Arabic newspapers in particular are paying intense and concentrated attention these days to the question of the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and their settlement in the occupied Palestinian territories. Of course, there is a very big difference beteen the aims of the two sides. This issue has become the second most important world event after the events in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. What has made it so big an issue is the fact that it is the product of these events and their direct consequence.

Observers in Paris believe that the Western press is strongly motivated by deception and malice while the aim of the Arab press is shown for what it is: naive and shortsighted. With their method of maneuvering and distorting facts, the newspapers in the West are shrouding the Soviet Jews' immigration with purposeful propaganda and are furthering this immigration, to the extent that the Soviet Jews' crossing of the Black Sea has come to appear like the Jews' crossing of the Red Sea thousands of years ago toward what they claimed to be the Promised Land.

Though some of these papers try to present the issue in a neutral way, they all insinuate to the Jewish reader everywhere that his dream of Greater Israel has come within grasp. Hence they are indirectly urging him either to immigrate amid this unique wave which has been well prepared so that it will start at the proper time or to extend a helping hand to Yitzhaq Shamir's government in its efforts to settle these immigrants in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Observers in Paris believe that the propaganda campaign for the immigration of Soviet Jews implies, even indirectly, a kind of overt psychological war against the Arabs in general and the struggling Palestinian people in particular. The aim of this is to deal a blow to their morale, sow despair in their hearts, paralyze their thinking, and eliminate their intifadah, which is the only remaining vibrant expression of their struggle. Thus news about the immigration has obscured news about the intifadah. For Jews, immigration looks like a counter-intifadah to the Palestinian intifadah, which has entered its third year while the long armed Israeli Army has failed to eliminate the children of the stones.

As to the Arab papers, observers in Paris believe that they have reacted in a futile way to the shock and surprise and that, no matter how much they shout and foam, they will only reap more bitterness and sorrow. This futile way consists of blaming Moscow and accusing it of opening the Soviet Union's door for the emigration of Jews and blaming Washington for closing the door in their face in order to force them to go to Israel. Let the Arabs know that the opening of one door and the closing of another thousands of miles away is not a mere coincidence.

Observers note that the Moscow of today is not the Moscow of yesterday. Moscow today is in a position where it does not want to hear what the Arab papers are saying on this issue. It would not hear even if it wanted to because its ears are tuned now to the area between the Caspian and Baltic seas. Observers say that no matter what the Arabs do, Moscow will not go back on a pledge it has made to Europe and the United States; namely, that it will allow free emigration and permit Soviet Jews to go wherever they want.

Let the Arabs know that relations between states are based on interests and not friendship. Moscow today needs the help of Western Europe and the United States more than at any time since the Second World War. The very fate of the USSR itself relies on this help in all its forms.

Observers in the French capital are asking whether the Arabs have forgotten that the issue of exit visas from the Eastern bloc countries and from Moscow itself was the weapon which Israel had sought to obtain for many years to launch its new attacks without the Arabs being aware of this. Or have their constant differences made them forget that the exit visa was the first tremor of the earthquake that is shaking all of Eastern Europe and which led to the collapse of borders and walls before Jews and others? The event of the East Germans' emigration to West Germany is not that remote. Have the Arabs forgotten the role played by Sakharov, now dead, and Scharansky, two "former" Soviet Jewish dissidents, in this respect?

The observers are also asking what benefits the Arabs will get from blaming Washington. They have blamed it for 40 years and what has happened? Is there anything new in its stand that deserves a reply or even an attribution of blame? Its stand is known. It has fulfilled its mission for Israel completely. The United States is also fed up with traveling and crossing oceans and soon will not bother, not only with the Middle East but maybe with half the hemisphere. It will devote itself to taking care of its affairs and those of its neighbors. Even fighting AIDS and drugs are more important to the United States than the Middle East and its problems.

The observers believe that, since matters are what they are now, why waste time in talking while Israel continues to make its dreams come true? Israel has not abandoned these dreams and will not do so unless the Arabs agree among themselves and attain genuine unity. Why then all this crying? Tears cannot water the flowers of the intifadah which have withered from too much talk and too little action.

Why don't the Arabs face the situation boldly and courageously, relying on themselves, as they did in the October war, without Moscow and in spite of Washington? Why don't they agree on holding an extraordinary Arab summit to draw up an Arab plan for backing the Palestinian intifadah? It is the only bridge remaining for the Arabs to overcome their current tribulation. Israel will not be content with only one bank or with one strip.

Mubarak Receives Message From King Fahd

NC0602123390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1202 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—Following a meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, Saudi Ambassador to Cairo As'ad Abu-al-Nasr said that he handed the president a message from His Majesty King Fahd ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. The message, the ambassador added, is in the framework of consultations and the exchange of opinion and information between the two countries, with the aim of promoting the interests of the Arab people.

Saudi King Fahd Telephones Mubarak

NC1002102090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Aswan, 10 Feb (MENA)—King Fahd Ibn 'Abd-al 'Aziz, Saudi king and custodian of the two holy mosques, phoned President Husni Mubarak this morning. They exchanged views on a number of Arab issues.

Mitterand Arrives in Aswan for Library Meeting

NC1202082190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Aswan, 12 Feb (MENA)—French President Francois Mitterrand arrived in Aswan this morning for a one-day visit to Egypt during which he will attend the meeting of the international committee for the revival of the Alexandria library.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Aswan Governor Qadri 'Uthman received the French president on his arrival at Aswan airport.

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi escorted the distinguished guest to the Cataract Hotel where the meetings of the international committee for the revival of the Alexandria library are due to be held.

Mubarak, Mitterrand Hold Talks

NC1202162890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] President Mubarak hosted a luncheon in honor of President Mitterrand and UAE [United Arab Emirates] President Shaykh Zayid in his private suite in the Cataract Hotel. Mitterrand and Shaykh Zayid are in Aswan to participate in the meeting of the international committee for the revival of Alexandria Library.

Afterward, President Mubarak held talks with French President Francois Mitterrand. Our correspondent reports that they discussed international issues and current security problems concerning both countries. Foremost were the latest developments in the Middle East issue in light of international and Arab developments. They also discussed the Lebanese situation and developments in the Gulf region, as well as the future of bilateral relations in all fields.

Mitterrand Departs 12 Feb

NC1202183290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Aswan, 12 Feb (MENA)—French President Francois Mitterrand left Aswan for home this evening after a brief one-day visit to Egypt to participate in the meeting of the international committee for the revival of Alexandria Library as a member of the committee. He was seen off at Aswan airport by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. [passage omitted]

Iraqi President Makes Contribution to Library

NC1202184890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1828 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Aswan, 12 Feb (MENA)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn decided to contribute $21 million to the Alexandria Library project. The Iraqi President phoned President Husni Mubarak this evening and told him about this contribution. This brings the total contributions made to the Alexandria Library project today to $44 million.

Saudi Arabia Makes Donation

NC1302131790 Cairo MENA in English 1035 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Aswan, Feb. 13 (MENA)—King Fahd Ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia contributed 20 million dollars to the revival of the ancient library of Alexandria, bringing the sum of donations up till now to 64 million dollars.

Belgian Trade Minister Arrives 11 Feb

NC1102193790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1913 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 Feb (MENA)—A Belgian delegation headed by Robert Urbain, minister of external trade, arrived in Cairo this evening on a four-day visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Libyan Bank Delegation Arrives in Cairo

NC1002160090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA)—A delegation from the Libyan Central Bank, led by Muhammad al-Zarruq Rajab, governor of the bank [name, title as received], arrived in Cairo at noon today on a visit which will last for several days. The visit is in response to an invitation by Dr Salah Hamid, governor of the Egyptian Central Bank, who met the delegation at the airport.

In a statement, the Libyan official expressed his pleasrue at this visit to Cairo, the heart of the Arab nation. He added that he and Dr Salah Hamid will discuss ways of bolstering bilateral relations.

Libyan External Liaison Secretary Arrives 11 Feb

NC1102200490 Cairo MENA in English 1740 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, Feb. 11 (MENA)—Libyan People's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau Secretary Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi arrived here today on a few days visit. He will attend meetings of the coordination committee for the liberation of Africa.

The Libyan official said upon arrival that his visit affords an opportunity to meet Egyptian brothers and review relations between the two countries. He said that the coordination committee for the liberation of Africa is one of the African institutions that play a major role in the liberation of African people. On a query on his view on the release of African leader Nelson Mandela, he paid tribute for the occurring of that great event to major sacrifices by southern Africa nations and effective African aid and support.

Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador 'Aziz Sayf-al-Nasr welcomed the Libyan guest at the airport.

The 53rd session of the Coordination Committee for the Liberation of Africa affiliated to the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) will hold its meetings here February 12-16 at the invitation of President Husni Mubarak.

Views Ties, Al-Qadhdhafi Visit

NC1202111090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1034 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—Jadallah al-Talhi, Libyan secretary of the people's committee of the people's bureau for external liaison and international cooperation, has praised the excellent ties between Egypt and Libya.

Al-Talhi referred to the repeated meetings between President Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, and the constant exchange of visits between the two countries by delegations of various levels. He stressed that these meetings and visits are a sign that these ties are developing.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, the Libyan official said that Col al-Qadhdhafi will visit Egypt soon.

Al-Talhi, who is leading his country's delegation to the meeting of the coordinating committee for African liberation movements, added that it is natural that this committee meet in Cairo as Egypt's sacrifices for the sake of the African people's liberty and its role in this regard are undeniable. The committee will begin meeting today.

Zairian Envoy Meets Ghali, Delivers Message

NC0702153090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1331 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today received Yindi Bukushaka, Zairian deputy minister of interior and security [name, title as received] and Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko's special envoy.

Dr Ghali stated that the Zairian guest was carrying a message to President Husni Mubarak from President Mobutu. He added that he and the Zairian guest discussed bilateral relations, as well as progress in the efforts to bring about national reconciliation in Angola and Egyptian and Zairian efforts to resolve the African debt problem.

Sources in the Zairian Embassy in Cairo have stated that the Zairian envoy will also travel to Khartoum to deliver a message from President Mobutu to Lieutenent General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation.

OAU Secretary, Tanzanian Foreign Minister Arrive

NC1102194190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1921 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 11 Feb (MENA)—OAU Secretary Salim Ahmad Salim, a Tanzanian, arrived in Cairo this evening on a three-day visit to Egypt. While here, he will attend meetings of the Coordination Committee for the Liberation of Africa scheduled to begin in Cairo tomorrow, Monday. [passage omitted]

Tanzanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Benjamin Mkapa has also arrived in Cairo to attend the meeting. [passage omitted]

Libya

Foreign Liaison on Chemical Weapons Statement

LD1202205690 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation issued the following statement:

During the past two days a Soviet-U.S. statement was issued in Moscow about the agreement between the foreign ministers of both countries on the need to liquidate the chemical weapons [CW] in the world, and their intention to work toward signing and implementing a multisided agreement aimed at banning the production and use of chemical weapons and liquidating stocks worldwide.

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, after reading the statement, would like to stress the following:

First, the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [GSPLAJ] welcomes this statement and hopes that it will be implemented in full.

Second, the GSPLAJ has already announced its clear stance toward this kind, and other kinds, of weapons of total destruction. GSPLAJ is calling for more far-reaching steps to destroy chemical, bacteriological, and nuclear weapons and to destroy their stocks to protect the human race from their dangers and end any possibility of their use.

Third, the GSPLAJ, and the Arab nation in general, understand completely and directly the dangers represented by these weapons of total destruction, because the Zionist enemy in occupied Palestine has these weapons, and this threatens the security of the region and affects international peace and security.

Fourth, after explaining to the world the nature of the Al-Rabitah factory, the GSPLAJ takes this opportunity to invite countries and international companies concerned with manufacturing medicines to participate with us in manufacturing medicines and medical equipment in this particular factory.

Al-Qadhdhafi Blames U.S. for Jewish Immigration

LD1202235490 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1420 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Tripoli, 12 Feb (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution met yesterday morning at the Green Amphitheater the political science students at Nasir International University, Qar Yunis, Sabha, the Arab Medical, and 'Umar al-Mukhtar Universities through the closed circuit.

In this meeting one of the students asked the brother leader of the revolution about the question of the Soviet Jews' emigration to occupied Palestine and the talk being circulated about the existence of an invitation for holding an Arab summit on this subject.

At the beginning of his reply to this question the brother leader of the revolution stressed the futility of holding an Arab summit to discuss or to protest or act against the Soviet Union to stop this emigration. He said there are two reasons for this futility: The first lies in the fact that the one who ordered this emigration was the United States and not the Soviet Union. The United States has placed a condition on the Soviet Union to allow this emigration in return for American loans, halting the arms race, and continuing the atmosphere of relaxation.

The brother leader of the revolution stressed that if the Arabs want to hold a summit about this emigration, they should hold it against the United States and not against the Soviet Union.

The brother leader of the revolution spoke about the second reason for the futility of holding an Arab summit on the emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine. He said the presence of the Soviet Jews, unarmed, in Palestine does not constitute a danger to the Arab nation. However, they will constitute such a danger when they are armed with U.S. nuclear bombs, aircraft, and missiles. The brother leader of the revolution pointed out that the Soviet Union did not send its Jews to occupied Palestine armed with these weapons, stressing that it is the United States which is arming those emigrants as soon as they arrive in occupied Palestine.

He continued: Therefore, who is more dangerous? Is it the United States or the Soviet Union? The answer to this question is clear, it is the United States which provides the Zionists with billions of dollars so that they can occupy Arab territories and establish farms, schools, and buildings. He stressed that the Soviet Union did not offer any funds to the Zionists to carry out these terrorist colonial acts.

The brother leader of the revolution described the thought of holding an Arab summit on this subject as an act of naivete, as the Soviet Union, in the era of the masses is unable to prevent the people from leaving the Soviet Union. He added that we were the first to announce that we are against anyone who dominates people, telling them to leave or not to leave. We have torn up the lists of those banned from travelling and have released their passports, and we have done that before the eyes of the world. The Soviet Union saw what was done on the land of the Great Jamahiriyah and followed its example, because it realized it is unjust to ban the masses from leaving.

The brother leader of the revolution stressed that the United States was the one who conspired against the Arab nation, and that a call to convene an Arab summit against the Soviet Union means that the United States wants to exploit the Arabs as a card in the game underway between the Soviet Union and the United States.

The brother leader further underlined that the Americans want our relations with the Soviet Union to become tense, so that we would not have any friends or allies, a situation that would make it easier for the United States to swallow us up.

The brother leader of the revolution also said: We support convening an urgent conference on Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union, provided that we do not

say that it is against the Soviet Union, and provided that we sit down and talk about the United States that has insisted on this emigration, has armed those emigrants, and has given them funds to settle in occupied Palestine.

The leader went on to say: If the summit were held under these circumstances, then we would welcome it. But if it were otherwise, then we would refuse to be treated as being naive, because convening the summit with the understanding that we are against the Soviet Union would mean completing the conspiracy against us. This would push the Arabs toward isolation.

The brother leader of the revolution stressed the obligation to stick to the friendship with the Soviet Union, saying: We must stick to this friendship whatever the circumstances of the Soviet Union may be because this friendship is extremely important for us in this world where the strong devours the weak.

Concluding his answer to the question, the brother leader of the revolution affirmed that what matters in all this is the unity of the Arab nation. He made it clear that if this unity were to be realized it would strengthen our political power and our economic situation. It would also most certainly make us an effective power. We then would have no need for the world, and there would be no control over our political vacuum. [sentence as received]

Al-Qadhdhafi: Algerian Parties 'Deceiving' Masses

LD1202235290 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Tripoli, 12 February (JANA)—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Great September Revolution, has announced that the setting up of around 20 parties in Algeria is a step toward the establishment of people's congresses in a specific and peaceful way, although it was not done in a deliberate way.

During a meeting yesterday [11 February] with the students of Nasir International University and, via closed circuit system, with the students of the universities of Qar Yunis, Sabha, Arab Medical, and 'Umar al-Mukhtar, the brother leader of the revolution said that Algeria is regarded as a people's state of popular councils which are regarded as lesser [as received] than the people's congresses. He pointed out that the political setup in Algeria, from municipality to province and republic, includes some kind of people's authority, represented in the people's councils and executive committees, which is a step before that of a jamahiriyah.

He said that the official title of Algeria from which the "Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria" was created after independence was based on people's democracy according to democratic developments in 1963. This was because the Green Book and the Third Universal Theory did not exist at the time. The brother leader of the revolution added that the current parties in Algeria have no value and no role, because Algeria is ruled by popular councils and executive committees: The people in a municipality elect a popular council called the Popular Council which administers the municipality, and an executive committee is elected within these councils. The same applies at the provincial level and then at the republican level at which the People's National Assembly and the government are set up.

The brother leader of the revolution said there is a link missing in the system followed in Algeria with regard to the people's council and the executive committee at the municipality level in view of their being [word indistinct] administered under the leadership of a mayor or chairman of the municipality.

The brother leader said he is convinced that Algeria will one day think about separating the People's Assembly—which is a popular body elected by the people—from the executive committee pertaining to the municipality which is headed by a mayor or a president of the municipality [as received]. He added that if these two authorities were to be separated it would be possible to create a separate mini-government in the municipality whereby the executive committee with its mayor or president would be responsible before the People's Assembly with its speaker. [sentence as received]

The brother leader of the revolution indicated that the system of the separation of the executive committee and the People's Assembly at the level of the province and the republic is now in place in Algeria. He added that if this system were to be developed in Algeria—which is considered as the state of the people's assemblies—the latter could change into people's congresses and as a result the parties and their licenses would end and the people would dissociate themselves from these parties.

The brother leader also pointed out that the game of the parties and the associations in Algeria has been exposed because they are striving for power and are deceiving the masses with trivial names and this is what has happened now as the authorities have granted tens of licenses for the establishment of parties which have entered into conflicts and confrontations with one another.

Al-Qadhdhafi Congratulates Mandela on Release

LD1202194690 Tripoli JANA in English 1700 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Tripoli, Al Nawwar [February] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution sent his congratulations to the African freedom-fighter Nelson Mandela on the occasion of his release yesterday from the prisons of the apartheid regime of South Africa.

Sudan

SPLA Repulses 'Large' Government Convoy

EA1202180990 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces repulse a large enemy convoy in Upper Nile. The following military communique has just reached Radio SPLA from SPLA General Headquarters.

SPLA forces of the "Bright Star" campaign phase 1, northern sector, on 10 February 1990 in the Ayod area repulsed a large enemy convoy after seven days of very heavy fighting and inflicted very heavy casualties on the enemy in men and material.

The convoy left Malakal on 31 January 1990 with orders to reach and rescue Juba within two weeks in a full [word indistinct] and apparent desperate and panic move by the junta. The enemy lost two tanks—one T62 and one Commandos. More than 10 trucks were destroyed and 72 enemy soldiers killed in the battle. The enemy convoy was forced to halt the advance and forced to withdraw 20 km back to (Pageu), east of Ayod.

It is to be recalled that about one month ago, Radio SPLA had announced that the movement of this particular convoy from Malakal was being closely monitored and that the SPLA knew the killing ground where to destroy this convoy. The place and time have now come.

The battle of 10 February 1990 near Ayod was only the beginning of the destruction of this already severely wounded convoy. The SPLA has laid several similar ambushes, and if the convoy insists to continue the advance, we assure them that many more surprises awaits them ahead, and the whole convoy will surely be finished.

The "Bright Star" campaign commander again repeats his warning to the Ayod convoy that further advance only means their destruction, like the convoy of Brigadier Isaiah Paul, destroyed by "Bright Star" campaign phase 3 near Kajo Kaji early last month. We ask every officer, NCO, and soldier of the Ayod convoy: Why die for the National Islamic Front government of 'Umar al-Bashir, a government that will definitely be overthrown this year, 1990? You only will die in vain. If you go back to Malakal, we will not attack you, but if you remain in the present position or if you make the mistake to advance again, we will be forced to attack to destroy.

The communique dismissed Khartoum's announcement that they have killed 110 SPLA soldiers in Ayod area as false and part of Khartoum's inexhaustible barrage of lies. If the SPLA gets killed in hundreds, they could not have lasted seven years.

To their futile war of disinformation, the junta only succeeds in telling their soldiers that the SPLA has tanks and rockets instead of the Abu Asharat [rifle with ten bullets]. We have lost only two tanks in the whole war so far. We assure the convoys at Ayod and Lanya that they will see many more tanks.

In a message to Radio SPLA, the chairman and commander in chief sent millions of congratulations to the officers, NCO's, and men of the "Bright Star" campaign phase 1, Northern Sector for the great victory at Ayod, and orders all the other ambush positions to be on maximum alert to complete destruction of the convoy, like Isaiah Paul, if they insist to advance.

Libyan Pilots Suspected in Bombing Rebels

AB0702182190 Paris AFRICA INTERNATIONAL in French No 224, Feb 90 pp 10, 11

[From the "Briefs" column]

[Text] Libyan pilots reportedly took part on board MiG-23's in bombing operations in Sudan against troops of the SPLA [Sudan People's Liberation Army] which oppose the Khartoum Government.

EEC To Continue Relief Flights to Juba

EA0902131590 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Alexander Demester, the resident representative of the EEC in Khartoum, has stressed that the EEC is participating with other circles, one of which is U.S.AID, to send relief cargo to Juba, currently with two American Hercules planes, with an average of 70 tonnes daily from Nairobi to the town. Demester said that the EEC will continue with its support. He pointed to the need to prepare the second stage of "Operation Lifeline" earlier, to avoid a repetition of last year's experience, when relief transportation (?was halted) due to the rainy season, which begins on 1 May.

Sharon Announces Cabinet Resignation at Convention

TA1202152290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1437 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Announcement by Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon, chairman of the Likud Central Committee, at opening of Likud Central Committee convention at the Tel Aviv fairgrounds; Sharon is constantly interrupted by heckling and shouts: "Arik, Arik," his nickname—live]

[Text] Mr. Prime Minister, I hereby submit to you my resignation. I have decided to resign from the Cabinet in order to pursue the struggle for the attainment of the national goal whose attainment is in jeopardy as a result of the current government policy. I will continue the struggle as a Jew, a Knesset member, and as chairman of the Likud Central Committee.

I have reached the conclusion I can no longer, by continuing my membership in the Cabinet, stop the avalanche. The matter is not personal. If it were not for this matter, I would not have resigned. The issue is a national matter of principle. Under your government, Palestinian terrorism is running wildly rampant inside all of Eretz Yisra'el, causing heavy casualties among Jews and innocent Arabs. The government's policy has resulted in Jewish life becoming a free-for-all. I cannot lend my hand to the current situation at a time I know and am convinced that it is possible, in other ways, to eradicate this terrorism. Within a relatively short time it is possible to reinstill law and order throughout Eretz Yisra'el. This will make it possible to attain peace between us and the Arabs according to our historic right over Eretz Yisra'el.

During your cabinet's term, Arab terrorism stepped up murder and violence and extended it also to our capital, Jerusalem, by order of the leaders of terrorism who live peacefully in the eastern part of the city. In fact, the capital, the heart of the Jewish people, has again been partitioned. The Israeli Government has reconciled itself to this situation. Your political plan has placed Israel on the road to the establishment of a second Palestinian state in Eretz Yisra'el.

Mr. Prime Minister, you are seeking tactical maneuvering space, but regarding Jerusalem there is no room for any maneuvering, tactical or otherwise. [applause] As for the safety of Jewish lives, it is inconceivable that there be room for maneuvering. The issue of security must be addressed immediately. The most vital things for our security, existence, and well-being have been snatched away from the Cabinet's hands. The Inner Cabinet has ceased to function; issues relating to life and death are being decided upon by only one or two men. They have assumed this authority in contravention of the most elementary rules in any normal and properly functioning democratic rule.

The Cabinet is paralyzed, incapable of providing even the minimal treatment to the problems of distress and the horrible problem of unemployment, involving tens of thousands of civilians in the development towns, in the moshavim, and outside them. The Cabinet is unable to properly contend with the most important Zionist challenge: the blessed immigration from the Soviet Union. The danger can be foreseen that the historic chance might be missed.

It is not easy for me to leave my place in the Cabinet. There are moments when a man must know when to get up from his seat and start marching. There are moments in the life of a nation, or the lives of men, when they must arise, get up, and fight with all their might before disaster occurs. This may be the last hour to do so.

Shamir Addresses Central Committee Convention

TA1202160890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1445 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir before the Likud Central Committee at the Tel Aviv fairgrounds—live]

[Excerpts] Fellow Cabinet members, Knesset members, Likud Movement's Central Committee members: Minister Ari'el Sharon took me by surprise with his announcement of resignation. When I receive his letter, a copy of which I have not yet received, I will give him my answer. [applause]

Central Committee members, the Central Committee convention should have taken place several days ago, but was postponed because of the bloody criminal attack on the Israeli tourist bus in Egypt on Sunday, 4 February, 9 of Shebat 5750. The enemies of the Jewish people, evil assassins, attacked in broad daylight a group of peaceful Israeli tourists who were traveling in Egypt, and in bestial cruelty and cold blood murdered nine and wounded 17. That murderous attack, in the heart of Egypt, proves once again peace has not yet reached our region, and the dangers to Israel's safety and the well-being of Israelis still exist, still are acutely prevalent, and require constant alertness and readiness.

The Egyptian Government admittedly has expressed its sympathy with our bereavement over the murder victims, but Egypt must know it is responsible for all Israelis on its soil. We still are awaiting the assassins' capture and their punishment with all severity.

The Israeli people always will cherish the memory of our dear brothers and sisters who fell in the hands of evil people for being Jews and Israelis. May God avenge their blood. We grieve deeply with their families. We wish the injured a full and speedy recovery.

I would like to ask the Central Committee members to stand up for one moment in the victims' memory. [convention observes a minute of silence] Please sit down.

At the outset of my speech, I would like to welcome the hundreds of new Central Committee members who

come from the former Liberal Party's ranks [applause], for whom this is the first Central Committee convention. Welcome! I hope your participation will contribute to the Likud's strength and might.

Ladies and gentlemen, I believe I will not be exaggerating if I say the eyes of the entire world are riveted to this hall today. For better or worse, whatever happens in Israel attracts special attention from the superpowers and many other countries. Today everyone knows there is no political process unless the Likud is at the center of that process. To a large extent the key to the peace process, therefore, is in our hands. This is a great privilege, but at the same time, the responsibility we bear likewise is great.

In the previous Central Committee meeting, in July 1989, I began my address by mentioning the plight of the development towns in the north and the south. I emphasized the essential national need to spread the population throughout Eretz Yisra'el, a mission undertaken—and may I add honorably and consistently—by the residents of the development towns. I also said it would have been proper to devote a special Central Committee session to this issue. Since July, the situation has not improved; on the contrary, it has grown worse. Unemployment has risen and the distress is more pressing.

The Likud, which always has identified with the problems and difficulties of the development towns' population, must at this time make efforts to change the situation. We must not let the Alignment turn back the hands of the clock and bring about a repetition of the situation that prevailed before 1977, when the population was divided into castes: the so-called first Israel, and second Israel—a state of affairs we eliminated. I therefore propose the Central Committee call, in three or four weeks, a special session for an in-depth discussion of the social and economic problems the country faces, with a special emphasis on the predicament of the development towns. [applause] I recommend that debate be conducted in one of the development towns, thereby allowing us to stress the great importance our movement attributes to the matter. If we include this subject in a host of other subjects, this will imply an attempt to minimize the gravity of the problem. The issue necessitates a special session.

I conducted a meeting about two weeks ago in my office with the development town leaders, and I raised this proposal. I was happy to obtain their consent. In this meeting, it also was agreed to set up a preparatory committee made up of the Likud ministers in charge of social and economic ministries, Knesset members, and representatives of the settlements themselves. This committee will deal with the overall issues on the agenda and draw up a series of draft resolutions so the Central Committee discussion will be fruitful and useful. The Likud must continue to be the standard bearer for social issues, a banner our movement always has raised. The socialistic slogans voiced by the Alignment and the left as a whole have long ago—and mainly in recent history—lost their credibility, and eradicated the painful foci of distress, which are shameful stains on our society. We also must proudly remember throughout the years of Likud activity in this sphere, the development towns and distressed neighborhoods have bred a wonderful stratum of authentic local leadership, which includes people who think and do. They are highly resourceful and energetic people, many of whom belong to our movement. The movement is proud of them and congratulates itself on their membership. [applause] This is a tremendous asset for our movement, an important source of strength that has grown in the past decade. We must foster this human asset and together fight this just struggle for our brethren in the development towns and the distressed neighborhoods.

The next Central Committee session, which will be devoted to the issue of distress, will presage a new era in the Likud's assault in a battle against unemployment and distress in the development towns and the neighborhoods.

Central Committee members, in light of the revolutionary changes in East European countries, the miracle of the dream we have had and held dear in our hearts for many years came true in front of our very eyes. The gates of the Soviet Union opened, and many Jewish brothers and sisters, who had been cut off from us for generations, began to flock to Zion and Jerusalem. These are great days, reminiscent of the vision of the prophets of Israel, who promised us millenia ago: "As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt I will show them marvelous things." [Micah 7:15] Many can grow strong of heart in light of the renewal of the historic messianic process of ingathering of the exiles and the building of this land.

No power in the world can halt the processes history has set into motion. We, living in this generation, have been fortunate enough to see with our very eyes history in the making and the fulfillment of the heavenly promise to our forefathers. It is difficult to find the right words to express and describe the greatness of this hour. In such moments, the words of the ancient traditional blessing are most apt and beautiful: "Blessed art thou, the eternal, our God, king of the universe, who hath wrought miracles for our fathers in former times, at this season." [applause]

Dear friends, in these very days there is an ugly campaign in the Arab world converging against the return to Israel. It is not against immigration to a certain part of Eretz Yisra'el, but in opposition to immigration to any place throughout Eretz Yisra'el. The return is being presented as [passage indistinct] to absorbing the immigrants and to the speedy incorporation of the new immigrants in our country's economy and society. The Israeli Government is entering into high gear to contend with the enormous challenges and problems which require a solution.

The first sums to finance the initial stages of immigrant absorption already have been allocated, and the building of thousands of apartments has begun. The local councils in several cities have taken the initiative, absorbing immigrants directly upon their arrival, and successfully have done so. A stirring and great excitement can be felt in the Jewish communities all over the world in view of the historic revolution of emigration from the Soviet Union.

It is clear to us the success of this tremendous endeavor depends on several elements. First of all, we appreciate the resolution of the USSR Government for opening the gates for departure of Jews. We hope the gates will remain open for all those who wish to return and that the obstacles and technical-bureaucratic difficulties impeding the smooth and speedy arrival of all those who wish to immigrate will be removed. Second, even if the government operates exceedingly efficiently [passage indistinct].

Everything related to the peace process between us and our neighbors is being conducted based on the Israeli Government's resolution of 14 May 1989. Our peace initiative is founded on the Camp David accords, and everyone knows in coming up with this initiative, we undertook immense risks. Outside elements are trying to impose their own ideas on the back of our initiative, to divert it from its path, and reset it on a new lane which conflicts with its intentions.

In the face of these dangers, we must make the following unequivocally and publicly clear: A tremendous intellectual effort was invested in our political initiative, whose goal is to bring about the end of the confrontation between Israel and the Arab world, meanwhile safeguarding Israel's interests. It was not meant to constitute the basis for antagonistic clashes and was not intended to be eroded on. It left no room for further compromise. The initiative constitutes the continuation of the Camp David agreements and, like them, it is the limit of the concessions Israel can make to achieve peace. [applause]

The initiative is a derivative of the agreement between the Likud and the Alignment, based on the different views in the Cabinet. Based on its content, therefore, there is no validity or mandate, there is no room for changes or concessions by any representative of any side. Anyone who does that without the authority to do so is acting independently, and his remarks are not at all binding on the Cabinet.

The attempts to talk to the other party in the political process behind the government's back will not bring about any results, and should be regretted and strongly condemned. This way will not succeed and will attain no achievement apart from causing damage to the state and its interests.

The initiative was intended to end the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole, not only allow for elections or grant autonomy to the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. We will insist progress is made simultaneously in all the areas with which the initiative deals. We will not agree the election plan be implemented, or that the process according to our initiative continue as long as the violence against the State of Israel and its residents continues.

We do not accept the contention the violence and terror are the acts of people called extremists. The expressions and deeds which we notice clearly indicate this is not the case. The Cabinet's peace initiative says the elections offered for Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza could take place only in an atmosphere free of violence, threats, or terror. All these must end.

The true start of political negotiations and the building of autonomy are inconceivable as long as attacks and acts of violence continue. Our war against terrorism must eradicate these phenomena, which preclude any progress in the direction of peace. We have not even the slightest doubt the violence, the intifadah, and terrorism should be eliminated from the root. [applause]

Our political initiative was meant to regulate the fabric of relations between ourselves and the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. It was not intended for the people living in Tunis, Damascus, or Sidon, whom the terrorist organizations claim to represent as well. The dialogue we suggested in our initiative therefore only will be conducted with inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. There will be no loopholes or cracks through which the PLO will be able to sneak in, and have a foothold in the political process or in the territory of Eretz Yisra'el.

Furthermore, I see no need once again to detail the clear and unambiguous resolution and position of the Likud regarding a united Jerusalem, which forever will remain the eternal capital of Israel. [applause] This position has not changed and cannot ever change. We will not be able to accept any move that will present any question mark regarding the status of Jerusalem—all its parts. The Arab inhabitants of Jerusalem will not be able to be partners in the political process that affects the status and future of the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. This is in line with the binding resolution of the Government of Israel under Menahem Begin dated 5 September 1982.

We firmly will reject the slogans regarding the right of return and everything symbolizing or helping implement that abominable theory. The initiative does not deal with the Arab diaspora. Those who espouse these ideas plan to eliminate Israel by flooding it with millions of refugees.

It is absurd to demand Israel will lend its hand to this vicious intention. We will take action to strengthen Jewish settlement throughout Judaea, Samaria, Gaza, and the Golan [applause] according to the Likud's platform. Jews must and are entitled to live in any part of the homeland, in Eretz Yisra'el. We send a message of encouragement—may you grow stronger and firmer—to the thousands of settlers who set up homes in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. [applause]

To conclude the political part: I again would like to address the leaders of Egypt and the Arab governments, as well as all the elements in the international community who want to promote peace in our region: Israel presented a sensible, balanced, and fair plan to resolve the conflict.

We are not interested in perpetuating an unsatisfactory situation. Nor are we interested in witnessing the continued suffering of the population of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Our political initiative was not born out of weakness. If the good of the Arab population is what guides them, if they sincerely want to contribute toward the end of the conflict, the elimination of terrorism, and the attainment of peace, they must use their influence on the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el to make them cut off the destructive and hopeless link with the PLO and help the two sides enter into a process of a dialogue to implement the Israeli Government's political initiative.

A dialogue with the PLO means acceptance of the establishment of a Palestinian state. Israel never will talk to the PLO and will not agree to a Palestinian state. [applause] This clearly is stipulated in the basic guidelines of the national unity government. Those who want to abolish these principles must present this explicitly to the Cabinet and the Knesset.

It should be clear to all today whoever proposes territorial compromise in fact proposes a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and perhaps also in Jerusalem, under PLO rule.

Dear friends, despite the dangers and the obstacles, one never must despair. Winds of freedom and democracy are blowing in many parts of the world. They one day will reach the Middle East as well. Our desire for peace and for the eradication of violence and war are deep-rooted and firm, although democracy has not yet managed to reach the society surrounding us.

But we hope, and never will stop hoping, the trends and powers that object to tyranny and oppression will overcome, and that freedom and the aspiration for peace one day will prevail even in this part of this world.

We are witnessing immense changes. There is no reason in the world why we should not believe the day will come when the spirit of democracy and peace will have the upper hand in our region as well. But if there is any chance true peace will have the upper hand in the complex and difficult negotiations in our region, it is incumbent upon us and our partners in the Cabinet to state again our peace initiative is just and realistic. We must stand united steadfastly and resolutely behind its principles and demands.

The Arab side has not yet shown understanding or readiness to come toward us. Its positions are extreme and unacceptable. If our partners to the Cabinet devote their chief efforts to gradually accepting all the Arabs' demands, the initiative will be bereft of all its content and advantages. This jarring symphony of threats of dissolving the government and setting up an alternative in the form of a narrow-based government if the Likud refuses to give up the principles of policy anchored in the basic guidelines of the national unity government—this symphony will affect the chances of making progress in the peace process.

These declarations by the Alignment leaders weaken our position in every negotiation, and encourage the extremists in the Arab world. Only true unity in the Cabinet and in the political negotiations can yield positive and realistic results through progress toward peace. An attempt to undermine national unity, and open or indirect preaching for dangerous concessions drive peace away. Those who truly desire peace must foster and strengthen the national unity government.

I hope the religious parties properly estimate, and will continue to do properly estimate, the weight and importance of national unity in the campaign for peace with security. The Likud believes in peace and national unity at the same time. These two principles, being intertwined and glued to each other, essentially are aimed at preserving Eretz Yisra'el and growing closer toward peace. No other way will succeed.

Dear friends, five months ago, on 5 July 1989, we conducted a Central Committee session here. It was supposed to be stormy and constitute fertile ground for bitter internal squabbles. Many colleagues feared the Likud, of its own volition, was heading toward self-destruction. This did not happen, however, because after a sober and comprehensive look at things, and following a review of the arguments in which the Central Committee members were engaged prior to that session, I reached the conclusion there are no ideological or political differences of opinion between the colleagues. I therefore saw no basis or justification for internal fighting. I consequently told myself and my colleagues we should state as much to the Central Committee and to the public as a whole in a clear and resounding voice, and thereby put an end to the artificial and harmful storm so the movement could calm down and enter into a cycle of normal and unified activity, as warranted and according to necessity.

We rallied round the joint resolution, which was adopted unanimously. I had hoped this would end the internal crisis in the movement. This is what I said, if you will permit me to quote myself: I call upon all our friends and colleagues to do everything today—and after today, tomorrow as well—to extinguish the fire and rise tomorrow morning fresh and confident, ready to continue to march along the road together through mutual respect and imbued with the belief and confidence in our strength and future. That is what I said, and I believed it. But it was not to be.

The tomorrow brought upon us bitter disappointments. For some reason, certain colleagues interpreted the efforts toward overcoming the dispute and the attempt to attain full movement unity as capitulation by the

majority to the minority, and as support for the continuation of the dangerous situation of incessant internal conflicts in the Likud.

The day after the Likud Central Committee meeting, however, it became clear beyond any doubt common ideas were not enough, and that it also was necessary to unite in action, to accept the authority of the majority, have mutual respect, and to demonstrate fair reciprocal loyalty; it became evident the waves of criticism and sharp attacks in the media against the movement's chairman and the prime minister, as well as against central figures in the movement, nevertheless continued. All that was accompanied, furthermore, by the spreading of false rumors and personal slander.

Friends, in a political movement there is room for internal arguments on the views and positions that must be adopted, but only on condition these arguments are conducted honorably and in a style guaranteeing mutual respect, and provided the argument is conducted at home [applause], not before the entire nation. [sustained applause]

It is impossible to live together like this. It is impossible to guide a movement like this. This way, it cannot hope to have a chance to succeed in attaining its goals. The public will not put its faith in a torn and split political camp in which attacks come from within, and in which the individuals elected to head it are constantly attacked. This is a sure recipe for failure in every public confrontation.

The situation deteriorated. Our colleagues and the large group of our supporters and friends could hear everything, and they cringed. They found this revolting. Many aching hearts then came out with the cry: Enough, stop this internal mudslinging, put an end to this self-flagellation. [applause] My friends, that is why I have reached the necessary and just conclusion that I must confront the Central Committee and tell its members: You voted for me as chairman of the movement and as its candidate for the premiership. It is on your behalf I conduct a bitter campaign over our principles and positions in the face of many elements in Israel and outside it on the international arena.

I consequently am the butt of an enormous volume of criticism and bitter and unpleasant attacks from many parts of the world. I am the target for hatred and am seen as the cause for that hatred to grow. Yet it does not frighten me, and it cannot shake my resolve to stand up in a campaign with which I totally agree, seeing the justness of its principles. At the same time, I am tired of the impossible state of affairs in which I suffer bitter attacks from the outside from enemies and friends [as heard], while at the same time I also should be attacked by colleagues at home who sing the daily chorus of slander and besmirching. I told myself: This is impossible. I will confront the Central Committee members, that most important party body, and tell my colleagues: Comrades, please make a decision! [sustained applause and shouts]

Hence my request for a vote of confidence. I think I am entitled to it from the moral and political points of view. Elements in Israel and outside it are entitled to know whether or not I speak for the movement. The Israeli public [applause] deserves to know who represents the Likud: I, or my detractors. [jeers heard in the background]

In my speech, I brought and presented the principles which guide me on the path of the political struggle. These are the same principles I presented during the 5 July Central Committee convention. I have changed nothing. I am at one with everything I said then and today. No one [jeers and applause] and no element can or will be able to divert me from that path of struggle for our national goals, the road I have walked nearly without break for many years. Our colleagues in the movement and the public in Israel, as well as those who know me from all over the world, are familiar and well aware of the ideas I believe in and for which I fight. I have a right to ask the Central Committee for a vote of confidence and support for the policy with which I have been identified and which I run. [jeers and applause]

I have explained—and I am talking about principles—that I will not mention tactical moves of any sort before the Central Committee. Anyone well versed in the political life knows the leadership should be given a certain maneuvering space and should be allowed to enjoy tactical freedom. It is self-evident all the tactical moves should stem from the principles which are binding on all of us. It is unheard of, and really borders on fraud, for someone to say he has faith in me and my political way, but feels he must impose on me constraints and handcuffs. The two are mutually exclusive; they are one thing and its opposite: If you trust and support me you must give me strength, not handcuffs. The members must choose between the two. [jeers and applause]

That is why I am submitting to the Central Committee the draft resolution as follows:
1. The Central Committee endorses the content of the prime minister's political announcement as presented in its session today, 17 of Shebat 5750, 12 February 1990;
2. The Central Committee expresses its confidence in the movement's chairman and the prime minister, and announces its support for his political path, whose principles were presented in the above-mentioned speech.

Central Committee members, this is my proposal, my request of the Central Committee. I explained how I reached the decision to come armed with this proposed motion. The question is whether the Central Committee will accept it.

To my deep regret, there are differences of opinion between myself and the chairman of the Central Committee regarding the voting procedure. I suggested we make do today with a vote only on this motion. The

Central Committee chairman objects to this form of vote. I have approached the legal adviser with a request for his advice on how to vote. He suggested the Central Committee decide how to vote. This is the most democratic way. The Central Committee chairman objected to that, too. Consequently, I do not know how it will be possible to vote on the motion if additional proposals that contradict it are appended to it. Dear colleagues, I therefore appeal to my colleagues with a request and I ask them: Do you accept my proposal for a vote of confidence? Those who are for me, please vote!

[Ari'el Sharon is heard shouting: "I ask the Central Committee members: Who is in favor of eradicating terrorism? Let him raise his hand."]

Please sit.

[Ari'el Sharon then shouts: "Who is against the inclusion of deportees?"]

Please sit down. Who is against my proposal? Colleagues...

[Sharon, interrupting, shouts: "Who opposes the participation of the Arabs of East Jerusalem? Let him raise his hand. Those who oppose the inclusion of deportees should raise their hand." He then announces: "The motions were accepted."]

I got the majority vote, and I thank the Central Committee members for the confidence they have shown in me and their support... [interrupted by shouts of "Arik, Arik"]

[Sharon shouts: "Who is for the elimination of terrorism? Let him raise his hand; those against the inclusion of East Jerusalem Arabs should raise their hand."]

Central Committee members, I hereby announce and pledge in this hall that ... [transmission of speeches and statements by Shamir and Sharon are interrupted by correspondent Dan Shilon, who reports that "the prime minister is leaving the podium, and the other ministers in his camp are leaving with him." He notes the prime minister had concluded the session, while Ari'el Sharon remains on the podium. It is reported only the constraints ministers remain on the podium, and Sharon is heard calling Deputy Prime Minister David Levi to take the floor]

Shamir: Likud Central Organs To Meet 'Very Soon'

TA1202174990 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1605 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Dov Gilhar "near the prime minister's room at the convention hall" after Shamir's exit from the convention hall—live]

[Text] [Gilhar] Mr. Prime Minister, we are broadcasting live on IDF Radio. We would like to hear your comment on what happened at the Central Committee convention, when you and Minister Sharon conducted two simultaneous votes.

[Shamir] Look, I conducted a vote and I got the results: My proposal received a decisive majority, a massive majority. Minister Sharon had no authority to conduct a vote.

[Gilhar] You then closed the meeting, but—as you know—the meeting went on.

[Shamir] The meeting is not going on. Anything that is said there has no validity.

[Gilhar] Mr. Prime Minister, can you comment on Minister Ari'el Sharon's announcement at the meeting's beginning saying he is resigning from the Cabinet?

[Shamir] It was a surprising announcement. I will be willing to comment when I receive his letter of resignation.

[Gilhar] Do you think you will receive this letter of resignation?

[Shamir, laughing] He said he has sent one.

[Gilhar] The development that took place here tonight has not enhanced the Likud's standing. As the party chairman, what do you intend to do?

[Shamir] In certain special situations, one must weigh different aspects of the problems. The Likud, I hope, has not been harmed. It is strong, and it seems to me that after this evening, it will be even stronger. Very soon we will convene the party's central institutions.

[Gilhar] Perhaps you will replace Minister Sharon in his capacity as the Central Committee chairman?

[Shamir] Well...[passage indistinct]

[Gilhar] Thank you very much.

Sharon Discusses Reasons Behind Resignation

TA1202182190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1635 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Interview with Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon by Dov Gilhar at the Tel Aviv fairgrounds "after his resignation announcement" at the Likud Central Committee convention—live]

[Text] [Gilhar] Minister Ari'el Sharon and his supporters are in a side room at the fairgrounds. He has calmed down from the upheaval in the hall at the convention center. Minister Sharon, it might be a banal question, but how do you feel?

[Sharon] I feel well, I regret it was impossible to continue the Likud Central Committee Convention as we had planned...

[Unidentified correspondent, interrupting] Is what happened here considered an explosion?

[Sharon] No, the convention continued. The head of the movement and Deputy Prime Minister David Levi made speeches, Knesset Member Tzahi Hanegbi spoke.

[Gilhar] But the chairman closed the meeting.

[Sharon] No, I did not hear that he closed the meeting. In my view, he did something he should not have done. There was a detailed, very clear agreement that the vote would not take place when he concluded his remarks. I was very surprised and regretted it very much. There was no reason for it. It could have been done during the evening in an orderly way as was agreed upon. There was a blitz vote.

[Gilhar] He was taken by surprise by your resignation, was he not?

[Sharon] I think whoever has been hearing my remarks in the Cabinet for months and years, my repeated calls to bring an end to violence and terrorism, is not surprised. Two years have passed and the government still has not ordered terrorism and violence uprooted. Whoever knows my view on Jerusalem, which is the heart of the problem and the heart of the Jewish people, and my repeated demands to take security steps in Jerusalem to bring about the reunification of the city, is not surprised. In actual fact, the city was divided by the government's policy.

[Unidentified correspondent] Minister Sharon, with whom did you consult on your decision to resign? It seems you also surprised your friends Moda'i and Levi.

[Sharon] I think they knew my feelings, and we spoke about it more than once. There was no choice but to make a decision. I made it within my family circle, and only they knew about it.

[Gilhar] Is that why you wrote the letter by hand?

[Sharon] Yes, that is the reason. I already have explained to my friends David Levi and Yitzhaq Moda'i.

[Gilhar] Minister Moda'i announced he plans to appeal to you to convince you to withdraw your decision. Are you open to such an appeal?

[Sharon] What I had to say I said in the letter I sent.

[Gilhar] Minister Sharon, the prime minister claimed this Central Committee session concluded with an expression of support for him. The duel between you and the prime minister on the vote, in his view, ended in his victory.

[Sharon] I believe the Central Committee meeting concluded first and foremost in a massive vote of support by the members to end violence and terrorism, which have been running wild for more than two years. I believe Central Committee members fully backed the proposal not to include East Jerusalem Arabs in the planned delegation for the elections. I believe the members expressed unequivocal opposition to the inclusion of deportees. We know who the deportees are. At the same time, there was no intention to vote against Mr. Shamir, no such issue was on the agenda. We did not come today to chose a prime minister or chairman of the movement. There was no issue of personal confidence...

[Gilhar] But Mr. Sharon, permit me to interrupt you. When you put your proposal to the vote, the prime minister was on the dais and called on Central Committee members to vote on his proposal. There was a bombardment of shouting from all directions. How do you reach the conclusion that you were supported in your proposal?

[Sharon] How does the prime minister reach the conclusion that he received support for his proposal? I believe it was completely clear our proposals were accepted. We did not vote against the prime minister. I believe many colleagues would have voted for the prime minister. That was not the issue at all. No one here questioned the position of Prime Minister Shamir as a person, as a political figure.

[Gilhar] But what about as the head of the movement?

[Sharon] No, no, certainly not. But I believe Ze'ev Jabotinsky once said when you sing "Hatiqva" [the national anthem] and you stand at attention, do not permit anyone to steal from your pockets. There are certain norms...

[Gilhar, interrupting] Are you trying to accuse the prime minister of stealing from pockets?

[Sharon] God forbid. We are talking in proverbs.

[Gilhar] But every metaphor has a factual basis, as you know.

[Sharon] I believe the attempt to conduct a vote in contrast to the agenda decided on is grave, but the fact is Central Committee members remained in the hall. I regret very much the prime minister left the Central Committee convention, which continued in an orderly fashion.

[Gilhar] Could he have remained in the hall? How can you and the prime minister continue to be members of the same movement after what we witnessed on the dias?

[Sharon] The Likud is a large movement; the dispute is not personal, but a deep ideological dispute.

[Gilhar] The prime minister presented it as a personal dispute.

[Sharon] He presented it that way, but everyone knows that the issue... [Gilhar reports transmission of the interview is halted because someone stepped on the equipment]

Arens on Shamir Stand on Deportees, Likud Unity

TA1202184590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1609 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by several unidentified correspondents, moderated by political correspondent Natan Gutman, after Shamir's convention address, outside the convention hall—live]

[Text] [Gutman] Good evening, Minister Arens. We wanted to obtain your initial comment on this evening's events at the Central Committee convention.

[Arens] I think anyone who was present could see the absolute support the prime minister received from the Central Committee [passage indistinct]. The criticism leveled at the prime minister, the confrontation with the prime minister—I believe all these were determined beyond any doubt tonight.

[Gutman] When you say—beyond any doubt—are you referring to what we saw here tonight? On the one hand, we saw Minister Sharon, on the other—the prime minister; the two voted for different things. How do you explain this?

[Arens] It is a known fact there was disagreement regarding the agenda. Mr. Sharon, the Central Committee chairman, refused to grant the request of the party chairman and prime minister; nor did he accept the Likud legal adviser's recommendation to put the issue of the agenda to a vote by the Central Committee members. There was no choice therefore but to [words indistinct].

[Gutman] Minister Arens, how do you envisage the future of the Likud after the events we witnessed here tonight?

[Arens] The Likud will function without any problems, I believe, because the moment it was determined how great the support for the prime minister is, the entire party will place itself behind him. [sentence as heard]

[Gutman] In your opinion, is the party still united?

[Arens] I have no doubt the party still is united.

[Correspondent] The peace process itself depends on the Likud Central Committee. Will the peace process be able to gather momentum now?

[Arens] I think both the peace process and the Israeli Government's political initiatives largely were dependent on the support the prime minister and his movement have, because recently doubts were raised as to the extent of the support he has in the party and the extent to which he has a hold on the party. I think this point clearly was settled here.

[Correspondent] Will there be no more delays? Will you not wait for another convention of the Central Committee?

[Arens] There is no connection. The prime minister acts as prime minister on a daily basis, without waiting for Central Committee conferences.

[Gutman] Minister Arens, in his address, the prime minister did not mention not including deportees in the Palestinian delegation. Was this deliberate? Will deportees be included in the delegation?

[Arens] I do not think in his address the prime minister tried to establish anything related to political tactics. He demanded a vote of personal confidence in himself and in his way, and he received it.

[Correspondent] Some people said the prime minister has in fact stolen a vote.

[Arens] What is the question?

[Correspondent] Will you comment on this claim, which was made by Central Committee members?

[Arens] I have not heard this claim. The prime minister took the only possible path, after the Central Committee chairman refused to consent to his request to put his proposal to the vote, and after the Central Committee chairman refused to accept the Likud legal adviser's ruling to put the issue of the agenda to the vote at the Central Committee.

[Gutman] Minister Arens, is it now possible to say the Likud is united?

[Arens] The Likud is a party, and it will continue operating as it had in the past. I think it will do so better than in the past, because it now has been settled beyond any doubt the prime minister has the party's support and confidence.

[Correspondent] When you left the convention hall, the Central Committee chairman announced resolutions had been passed regarding non-inclusion of deportees and of East Jerusalem residents, and regarding the eradication of terrorism. I fail to understand how you can disregard these resolutions. You have been telling us here the prime minister received a vote of confidence! The Central Committee has no idea what it voted for.

[Arens] Were you there when the prime minister asked for a vote? You must have seen when hands were raised, there was a decisive majority in his favor...

[Correspondent, interrupting] Then the Central Committee chairman submitted his own resolutions.

[Arens] Then the party chairman closed the Central Committee meeting.

[Correspondent] But while he did that, the members were voting for other resolutions which Sharon was reading out on another microphone. While Shamir said: Who supports my proposal, Sharon called out: Who is in favor of the extermination of terror? Who is in favor of objecting to the inclusion of deportees?

[Gutman] Is this the unified Likud you spoke about a minute ago?

[Arens] That there was a problem regarding the agenda is clear to everyone. That the Central Committee chairman was not ready to accept either the decision of the party chairman or that of the legal adviser is a fact.

[Gutman] What will happen now, Minister Arens? How will this party be able to continue together?

[Arens] I have no doubt this party will continue together. It has a broad common ideological basis, and therefore will march forward together.

[Gutman] Mr. Sharon accused the prime minister—in fact, all the ministers—of joint responsibility for the terror. He made some very serious remarks. What have you to say?

[Arens] I do not think this is the right moment for internal arguments. The time for that will come.

[Correspondent] Do you believe the prime minister will accept the resignation? [question not answered]

[Gutman] We end here the exchange between reporters and Minister Arens.

Peres: Peace Process Will Not Be Rejected

TA1202190190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1755 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Telephone interview with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Dan Shilon in Tel Aviv—live]

[Text] [Shilon] We would like to hear your reaction to today's events at the Likud Central Committee, which you must have heard.

[Peres] I will not say anything about the Likud. I have avoided saying anything up to now and will continue in the same spirit in the future, but the country does not belong to the Likud, just as it does not belong to the Labor Party. The state must be served, not controlled. The state has the most burning and serious issues which must be dealt with. It is inconceivable everything will be put off until certain processes taking place inside the parties find some expression.

[Shilon] Could the process the Likud Central Committee underwent today hold up or perhaps prevent continuation of the political process?

[Peres] I do not know. I only know we will not permit the holding up or rejection of the peace process.

[Unidentified correspondent] Will the Alignment gain from what happened in the Likud today?

[Peres] The problem is not the Alignment, it is the country's problem.

[Shilon] Mr. Peres, how do you respond to what the prime minister said in his address about the political process. He said clearly that...

[Peres, interrupting] The speech clearly had an extremist tone. It might have been aimed for internal consumption, but he made it no easier for decisions to be made.

[Shilon] Either coincidentally or not, the prime minister avoided referring to the issue of the deportees, which is perhaps the least extreme point in his speech.

[Peres] I do not want to get involved in analyses, but on the other hand, he said other things which sounded quite extremist.

[Shilon] Do they call for the drawing of conclusions by Labor Party ministers?

[Peres] I am not prepared to put the cart before the horse. We are convening this evening and will coolheadedly discuss the right way to deal with what happened today.

[Shilon] Are you prepared to speculate on what the mood among the Alignment ministers will be?

[Peres] No.

Shamir: Sharon Removal as Committee Head Sought

TA1202195790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1715 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Dan Shilon and Goni Mardor—live]

[Excerpts] [Shilon] We are back at our mobile studio at the Convention Hall. With us is Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Good evening, sir.

[Shamir] Good evening.

[Shilon] Could we now hear your summations in a more relaxed atmosphere?

[Shamir] Well, yes, you can, why not.

[Shilon] Was there an explosion at the meeting?

[Shamir] I would not call it an explosion, because I think—I am positive—that the Likud was not harmed tonight.

[Shilon] Not harmed?

[Shamir] Not harmed. We had a problem. In democratic bodies, it happens—albeit very rarely—that the majority fails to impose its authority on a minority which refuses to accept the decision of that majority.

[Shilon] How do you know they are a minority, as far as Sharon's proposals go, for instance?

[Shamir] We have seen and we still see that, first of all, if one thinks of the Likud as an entity... [changes thought] It is vital to see the situation in the Likud institutions:

My stands and those of my colleagues are supported by a majority among Likud Cabinet ministers; in the Likud Knesset faction; in the Likud Secretariat; and in the Likud Central Committee. In all these, we enjoy a massive majority which supports us.

In this instance, something unusual happened. Ari'el Sharon, who currently occupies the position of the Central Committee chairman...

[Shilon] Only currently?

[Shamir] ...took advantage of his position by declining to consider procedural issues: the party chairman's stand and the legal adviser's ruling. He refused to bring the controversial issue up for a vote in the Central Committee. He decided that he, and he alone, is authorized to rule arbitrarily on important procedural issues.

[Shilon] With your permission, I would like to refer to this very point: When—relying on the Likud legal adviser's recommendation—you put up your proposal for a vote, in the mayhem that ensued, Ari'el Sharon requested that the meeting be continued. He is the Central Committee chairman. Why did you not allow him that?

[Shamir] I thought the massive majority I saw at the Central Committee, which supports me and my stands, and of which I had been aware even before a vote was taken... [changes thought] I could not allow Minister Sharon to conduct the Central Committee meeting arbitrarily, just any way he pleases.

[Shilon] Earlier you said: Ari'el Sharon is currently the Central Committee chairman. Is the emphasis on the word currently?

[Shamir] Of course, he is currently...

[Shilon, interrupting] Is there a chance you will decide to replace him?

[Shamir] I think this is demanded by almost all Central Committee members.

[Shilon] To replace Ari'el Sharon?

[Shamir] Yes, because he treats this position as if it was his private property. [passage omitted]

[Shilon] With your permission, sir, I would like to take another step forward and ask you about the situation inside the Likud. Ari'el Sharon has resigned from the Cabinet. You have just said he has no place as Central Committee chairman. Is he also on his way out of the party?

[Shamir] I do not know. I do not know. Why should I rush forward? Why should I rush forward? We will look into things. I also want to act according to the accepted rules and the existing regulations.

[Shilon] Tonight the Alignment already is speaking of disbanding the government. We have heard several utterances to this effect. Can you comment on this?

[Shamir] Well, I cannot decide their moves, but I presume anyone who wants to dissolve the government anyway may use tonight's events as another pretext. I think anyone who follows this line of thinking is wrong, but it is their business.

[Shilon] Was your failure to mention deportees accidental?

[Shamir] Look, I said in my political statement that I will—and I did—enumerate my guiding principles. I do not think I also should inform the Central Committee of all the tactical moves I envisage.

[Shilon] One tactical move, however, was mentioned in your address: the move related to East Jerusalem Arabs.

[Shamir] That one is a matter of principle which has existed ever since the Camp David days.

[Mardor] The Alignment says you thereby have imposed constraints on yourself.

[Shamir] No, absolutely not. I have said this dozens of times. This principle of the non-inclusion of East Jerusalem Arabs in elections for autonomy still is valid, in my opinion, and binding on the Government of Israel, because a resolution to that effect has existed ever since Menahem Begin's government, since September 1979. It was then the government adopted a resolution saying East Jerusalem Arabs will not participate in elections for autonomy, because Jerusalem does not belong to Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. [passage omitted]

Moda'i 'Ashamed' of Sharon's Resignation

TA1202200890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Interview with Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i by Le'a Zinder following the Likud Central Committee convention on 12 February; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Zinder] Did you, Yitzhaq Moda'i, know that Ari'el Sharon was about to drop the bombshell [on his resignation]?

[Moda'i] No comment. I was not authorized to reply to this question.

[Zinder] Why not?

[Moda'i] Because it was not my decision. It was Mr. Sharon's decision, and in respect of his decisions, I will respect him and not answer your question.

[Zinder] Are you going to follow suit and resign from the government?

[Moda'i] Why is it necessary to resign? I hope Mr. Sharon will come back to the Cabinet and the government. Why is there room to resign? Why? Have we done

something like Minister Weizman, or have we misconducted [as heard] in any way?

[Zinder] Mr. Moda'i, is this the beginning of the end of the Likud as a united political movement?

[Moda'i] No, it's the beginning of a new beginning.

[Zinder] Meaning what?

[Moda'i] Meaning that there will have to be some changes. fundamental changes will have to take place, in due course, in good time.

[Zinder] What is this—open war now on Mr. Shamir?

[Moda'i] It's not open war. There was never a war against Mr. Shamir. There was a disagreement about the steps that he has taken or was willing to take.

[Zinder] If Mr. Shamir appoints a new trade and industry minister, will you continue to remain in the government?

[Moda'i] That's premature. Mr. Shamir is not yet in a position to appoint anyone. Mr. Sharon has made a declaration. There is a process according to the law, and it's not open for all.

[Zinder] How do you sum up what happened here tonight?

[Moda'i] Shame. I feel ashamed. I feel that if the leader of my party and his followers had to take such a step, it's an indication of a fundamental misconduct.

Rabin: 'Regrettable Event' at Likud Convention

TA1202201490 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Yoram Ronen in the Tel Aviv studio—live]

[Text] [Ronen] Good evening, Mr. Defense Minister.

[Rabin] Good evening to you.

[Ronen] After what happened in the Likud Central Committee this evening, do you believe this is the Labor Party's opportunity to bolt the unity government?

[Rabin] I never sought an opportune moment to leave. Such a decision also was not taken by the party's forums. The party decided to try to exhaust the chance to advance the peace process within the framework of the unity government. This is a national issue, as well as in the Labor Party's interest. A regrettable event occurred this evening. Although it happened in a different party, it is very unpleasant for me as a citizen. I still have not reached the conclusion we should make a hasty decision. We will conduct a discussion among our ministers, and there most likely will be a meeting of the Bureau. As things look now, it does not look like there is any reason to decide to secede. The fact Sharon is leaving the government does not justify a parallel departure by the Labor Party.

[Ronen] The question following Sharon's resignation announcement is whether we now are not facing a situation in which we in fact do not know what the Likud is. Perhaps there are two Likud parties or two camps inside the Likud?

[Rabin] We will find out in the coming days. Certainly on the basis of the data today, it would be hasty and irresponsible to create a sort of alliance with Sharon to disband the government.

[Ronen] But there is a Shamir-Rabin alliance on the continuation of the government.

[Rabin] There is an alliance between the big parties based on the decisions of the Labor Party forums.

[Ronen] Mr. Rabin, I suppose following what I heard a short time ago from Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, there are no significant differences between the two of you on leaving the government. He also says there is no reason for haste. But there supposedly are differences of opinion on this, as we already saw this evening, with Labor Party members demanding an immediate secession.

[Rabin] The Labor Party is an organized party. What happened this evening in the Likud Central Committee could not happen to us. Our institutions make the decisions, and even if there are private views, the proper institutions—the Bureau and the Central Committee—are the only bodies authorized to make decisions to change previous resolutions.

Shamir, Levi Issue Communique, Stress Unity

TA1202203390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1926 GMT 12 Feb 90

[By Arye Shor from the newsroom]

[Text] Here is a tidbit as an aftermath to the Likud uproar: Does Minister Sharon indeed plan to resign?

Minister Levi, his fellow member in the constraints camp, said this is not the case. He claimed this is a letter of resignation submitted in a moment of anger, a moment of excitement. This is what Minister Levi said a short while ago after a meeting with the prime minister at the Tel Aviv fairgrounds. It is hoped Mr. Sharon will rescind his move, Levi emphasized.

Minister Levi and the prime minister issued a joint communique a short while ago after a brief meeting at the fairgrounds. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reported the two personalities decided to continue their consultations in the next few days to maintain Likud unity. In response to a question by our correspondent on whether Minister Sharon was aware of the meeting, Minister Levi said: I do not need anyone's permission.

Mr. Shamir will confer with Minister Moda'i tomorrow.

Shamir Says Likud 'Relies' on His Decisions

TA1202204490 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Yig'al Goren; in the studio—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Goren] Mr. Shamir, we have great difficulty in understanding what it is the Likud Central Committee decided tonight on the three central issues: East Jerusalem Arabs, deportees, and the intifadah.

[Shamir] Who told you these are the central issues?

[Goren] These were the controversial issues.

[Shamir] The media decided they are the central issues, but I deny it is true. These are not the central issues. The Likud Central Committee decided tonight to endorse my proposal, my motion of confidence; approved the content of my speech, or rather, the content of my political statement; and expressed its support for my policy. This is the only resolution adopted by the Likud Central Committee tonight, and adopted by a decisive majority. It is true I would have preferred to see my proposal adopted after a secret ballot, but this was made impossible.

[Goren] Does a decisive majority in a ballot mean the Likud gave you a mandate to attain talks between Israel and the Palestinians in Cairo?

[Shamir] The Likud gave me a mandate to do what I deem necessary. The Likud relies on my decisions. The Likud has decided if I deem it necessary to go to Cairo, Washington, or anywhere else, to conduct negotiations over vital and fatal national issues, it can rely on Shamir.

[Goren] What can you say about the shouts we can hear beyond this wall, which call for your resignation?

[Shamir] They are a small group of youngsters from the Tehiya. They have no connection with the Likud.

[Goren] Thank you very much, Mr. Prime Minister.

Shamir, Levi Stress Party Unity After Meeting

TA1202204890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1931 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] The meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Deputy Prime Minister David Levi ended about 30 minutes ago here at the Tel Aviv fairgrounds.

This may hint at new partnerships in the Likud. Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i reacted to the two men's meeting by saying he welcomes the great love between Shamir and Levi. Let us hear the two comment after their meeting:

[Begin recording] [Shamir] We agreed to maintain very close contacts in the next few days; we will meet tomorrow and the day after and conduct consultations; and we will decide what to do to preserve party unity and make sure we fulfill our jobs in heading the government.

[IDF Radio correspondent Dov Gilhar] Does this mean Minister David Levi is actually leaving the constraints camp?

[Levi] Do me a favor. You, after all, have just come in. I am not leaving anything. I have a movement, the Likud. As a result of things each one of us disliked, things took this turn, and one bloc versus another was created. Our bloc, however, is the Likud. We will do everything in our power to return to our goals and our united and unifying framework to emphasize the things common to all of us and which we are obligated to stress together.

[Gilhar] Mr. Shamir, is the meeting between yourself and Levi the beginning of a new era in the Likud, or is this too presumputous an assumption?

[Shamir] I would not say this is a new era. Throughout the years, and even during hard times, we have been known to maintain good and fair relations. We met this evening, which proves my point. We decided to continue to meet to discuss our future path. [end recording]

Alignment Members React to Likud Convention

TA1202205490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Labor Party Cabinet ministers are meeting in two hours' time to discuss the situation. The meeting will take place at party leader Shim'on Peres' Tel Aviv office.

Two Knesset members in the party's dovish wing have already called for the party to break up the national unity government in the wake of the Likud convention. Dr. Yosi Beilin says that the Likud convention shows beyond doubt that the two parties cannot continue in the national unity government. Knesset Member [MK] Hayim Ramon also points to the fact that Prime Minister Shamir totally ruled out participation of Palestinians from East Jerusalem in the proposed elections in the territories. However, Knesset Member Mikha Goldman, a member of the Rabin camp in the Labor Party, notes that Shamir did not specifically refer to Palestinian deportees. In his speech Shamir said that only residents of the territories could serve as delegates. The prime minister also stated there must be no windows or cracks through which the PLO could dominate a dialogue with the Palestinians.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 12 February adds: "Minister Rabin's confidants have said this evening that there is no reason for a crisis. Mr. Shamir's speech is allowing the continued existence of the government and the continuation of the political process." Also, "Knesset member (MK) Hayim Ramon, the head of the Alignment's Knesset faction, says that Mr. Shamir heads a divided movement which cannot lead a democratic life, and this raises a question on his

ability to serve as prime minister. It is doubtful whether it is possible for the Alignment and the Likud to continue their cooperation when Shamir is the No. 1 constraint element of the government. MK Ramon wants the Inner Cabinet to decide on the issues of deportees and the participation of East Jerusalem Arabs in the elections. MK 'Uzi Bar'am has called on his party to extricate itself from the strange alliance, as he put it, with Shamir and his party"]

Sharon: Shamir 'Reneged' on Debate Understanding

TA1202212390 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 2057 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Tonight Minister Ari'el Sharon handed his resignation letter to the prime minister. Minister Sharon said he apologizes to his colleagues, Ministers Levi and Moda'i, for failing to inform them of his intention to resign. According to him, the prime minister has reneged on an explicit understanding that stipulated a debate would be conducted at the Central Committee meeting, and that the ballot would be secret.

Peres: Peace Process 'Bloc' Needed in Government

TA1202220990 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 2057 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, by Yoram Ronen after the Likud Central Committee meeting; in the studio—recorded]

[Text] [Ronen] Do you now see one united Likud, or perhaps a Likud torn and cleft into two parties, or two camps?

[Peres] I so far have avoided expressing my views of the situation in the Likud, and I will not do so today, either. I feel no joy at the events; it was, all in all, a very sad picture as far as democratic culture goes. I will neither analyze nor sum up. All I will say is the matters will be decided in the Cabinet and the Inner Cabinet.

I am saying loud and clear we must agree to a Palestinian delegation that will include one or two deportees who are not PLO members, and an East Jerusalem resident or two who have, let us say, an address elsewhere.

[Ronen] This is the precise opposite of what the prime minister said in his address.

[Peres] If this is the precise opposite, then we certainly are opposed; a decision must be made, and we will draw all the appropriate conclusions from this decision.

[Ronen] Mr. Peres, if at a certain moment you reach the conclusion the moment to terminate the national unity government has arrived, and you make the appropriate recommendation to the Labor Party institutions, do you think there will be a majority to support your stance?

[Peres] I do not think the country will remain without a government. There is a Knesset, and a majority will be formed. I neither am rejecting nor inviting anyone. In my opinion, this question should be resolved based on a policy, rather than the opposite: Determining a policy based on the situation in the parties or the Knesset is wrong. I am convinced the State of Israel will have a government.

[Ronen] To the point, Mr. Peres, are you now resuming, or beginning, contacts toward a possible establishment of a narrow-based government headed by the Labor Party?

[Peres] A definite establishment of an alternative government is conceivable only after the president imposes this task on one of us. At the present stage, we are members in the unity government, although even in a unity government a bloc for the promotion of the peace process should be established. I have been saying this all along. There is some misunderstanding here. I said: We must join with the religious parties even while in the unity government, because we are guided uniquely by the need to promote the peace process.

Factions on Likud Convention, Sharon Resignation

TA1202225690 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2200 GMT 12 Feb 90

[By Dov Gilhar, party affairs correspondent]

[Text] First, the reactions in the coalition parties. SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] said: The prime minister has won, and the unity government prevails. Minister Yitzhaq Peretz said that, as an Israeli citizen, he is sorry for the events that took place at the Likud Central Committee in full sight of all Israelis and of the foreign nations. I believe the sights we saw at the Likud Central Committee convention do not reflect the State of Israel. Now it is clear beyond any shadow of a doubt the unity government has emerged stronger than before, and that Shamir's status has been enhanced. The unity government's life expectancy has been extended, said SHAS sources.

Knesset Member [MK] Yitzhaq Levi, chairman of the NRP [National Religious Party] said: We have witnessed a shameful show which casts doubt on the Likud's ability to serve as the ruling party. The NRP adheres, at the same, to its stance there is no room for a narrow-based government, and the unity government should be preserved. It is to be regretted the biggest show in town was the showdown in the Likud over power, rather than ideology.

Now for the opposition: Tehiya comments mainly on the resignation of Minister Sharon, saying the resignation refutes all claims attributing personal motivation to his and his colleagues' activities. The explosion at the Likud convention was not the end of a process, but rather a beginning. Tehiya hopes Likud MK's and Central Committee members in increasingly large numbers of Greater Israel supporters will open their eyes and form an all-embracing framework, including all the elements of

the genuine national camp that will conduct the fatal struggle for Eretz Yisra'el and for right-wing and left-wing withdrawals.

Tzomet remains undecided. Its reaction says undoubtedly, the events in the Likud tonight are far from arousing enthusiasm, but it is too soon to draw conclusions and make assessments. Tzomet is waiting for further developments.

In the left-wing camp, MK Shulamit Aloni from CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] said any government without Sharon is better than a government with Sharon. It should be remembered, however, that Sharon also is dangerous while outside the government, and he is liable to place himself at the head of the fanatical nationalists in the territories, where they will break the law and rebel.

Shinuy welcomes Minister Ari'el Sharon's resignation, saying: Better late than never. Shinuy views the resignation as the defrayal of a personal debt of Minister Sharon to the Kahan Commission, which barred him from serving as defense minister in the wake of his failures in the Sabra and Shatila affair.

Labor To Remain in Government, Test Likud

TA1302053690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] In a late night meeting last night, Labor Party ministers decided not to discuss the possibility of leaving the government at this stage. The ministers said they would test the prime minister's commitment to the peace process at the Inner Cabinet. Dovish Labor members want a deadline to test the Likud's willingness to push the peace process forward. More from Le'a Zinder in Tel Aviv:

[Begin recording] [Zinder] The Labor ministers met at Shim'on Peres' Tel Aviv office for three and a half hours late last night to discuss the outcome of the Likud Central Committee meeting. At the end of their meeting, the ministers emerged with a joint statement expressing shock and worry over events in the Likud and their possible effect on the peace process. For now, Labor is staying in the government but, said Shim'on Peres, it will put Likud's intentions to the test in the Inner Cabinet.

[Peres] We have decided to put for a decision the composition of a Palestinian delegation, its agenda, and the beginning of a dialogue in the very near future.

[Zinder] Something of the confusion and the dissension in the Likud was evident also among the Labor ministers. Yitzhaq Rabin, who refused to talk to reporters, is said to have argued that there is no reason for a government crisis and that last night's events at Likud enable the continuation of the peace process. Due to his pressure, the Labor ministers' decision gives no explicit time frame in which to bring the issues of the Palestinian delegation and the U.S. secretary of state's invitation to Foreign Minister Arens to the Inner Cabinet.

The dovish Labor leaders see no reason to wait. Yosi Beilin said that last night the unity government came to the end of the road.

[Beilin] Well, we don't have a partner. I don't think that the Likud exists; I don't think that we can go on with the Likud; I don't think that there is any possibility to continue the peace process and to accelerate the peace process with such a partner, which doesn't exist.

[Zinder] And dovish Knesset Member Hayim Ramon said last night that this is yet another example of Labor's shilly-shallying and that he will insist this Thursday's Labor Bureau—the party's top leadership forum—affix a date to the Labor ministers' ultimatum. [end recording]

PLO's Sha'th: Sharon Resignation 'Hopeful Sign'

TA1302054890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] In New York, a top PLO adviser said Sharon's resignation could be, what he called, a hopeful sign toward Middle East peace. Jonathan Shachter reports:

[Begin recording] [Shachter] As Dr. Nabil Sha'th, the chairman of the PLO political committee put it, Ari'el Sharon was a burden on the Israeli Government. I think with him outside the government there will probably be more chances for peace to be concluded.

Asked about the possibility now of a peace settlement with the government, including a Likud led by Prime Minister Shamir, Sha'th's outlook was guarded. Likud, he said, would have to play an important role.

[Sha'th] Our problem is we feel that the present coalition has been a coalition of paralysis, and Mr. Shamir has led that paralysis. Many people thought that his paralysis was caused by Sharon. If Sharon is out, would that release him toward the real step of recognizing the right of the Palestinian people to nominate their own leadership—which is the PLO—and move toward negotiations leading to peace? That's the question I think that has to be answered in the few coming days.

[Shachter] Dr. Sha'th offered no specifics of what steps PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat referred to when he said on Sunday that the PLO might take other measures to achieve its aims. But, Sha'th said, in no way did 'Arafat mean there was any return or change in the PLO commitment against terrorism in all its forms.

Asked if the Sharon resignation might forestall a PLO change in tactics, Sha'th replied:

[Sha'th] If as a result of this change we see a more forceful move toward reconciliation and toward a real peace process, then this will probably change our mind. [end recording]

Levi: Constraints Camp Still Exists in Government

TA1302055690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Telephone interview with Deputy Prime Minister David Levi by Arye Golan on 13 February—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Golan] Do the constraints still exist?

[Levi] They still exist and will continue to.

[Golan] Does the constraints camp also still exist?

[Levi] Yes, the constraints camp still exists, and it stands on the principles decided upon yesterday at the Likud Central Committee: no to the deportees; no to the Arabs of East Jerusalem; and no to the PLO.

[Golan] But Shamir never said a word about deportees at yesterday's Central Committee convention.

[Levi] I think whoever tries to make speculations is welcome to them. The position taken by the Likud is clear and unequivocal, and when it is brought before the Inner Cabinet, you all will discover the entire Likud supports these principles.

[Golan] Now, Minister Levi, is Minister Sharon's name also written on the new leaf you have turned over with Prime Minister Shamir, or will Sharon no longer be a minister in the government?

[Levi] It is no secret I appealed to Minister Sharon to change his mind and take his resignation back. I hope this indeed will happen. This is not a matter of personal animosity, especially after the movement adopted solid decisions. Many people hoped the movement would alter its path, but that was not the case. There is no reason therefore, and I hope Sharon will change his mind. The movement must be unified and stand as one body. Then it will be able to guard most successively the central and ideological matters that pertain to the Likud.

[Golan] Thank you, Deputy Prime Minister Levi.

Rabin Comments on Future of Government

TA1302075090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Mikha'el Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning, Defense Minister Rabin.

[Rabin] Good morning.

[Friedman] Do you count on Yitzhaq Shamir to help implement the Labor Party decision, reaffirmed yesterday by the Labor Party ministers, which states the Palestinian delegation to the talks can include two deportees and Arab residents of East Jerusalem? This decision, after all, was the reason for the Labor Party remaining in the government.

[Rabin] Look, I am for exhausting the possibility of continuing the peace process. It should be remembered that since 1982, the Israeli Government has not had a comprehensive peace and security policy. The decision adopted on 14 May 1989 certainly was the first decision made by the national unity government in either of its terms on a comprehensive policy of furthering peace with security. As long as a chance remains, based on the decision of 14 May 1989 and on the Inner Cabinet's positive response to U.S. Secretary of State Baker's five points to reach a meeting of an Israeli and Palestinian delegation, we must exhaust it. At the same time, if it becomes clear obstacles are being placed in the way of putting together a delegation from residents of the territories—and I stress: residents of the territories; this term can be interpreted in different ways, but the government and Inner Cabinet resolutions refer only to this—then it will become clear this government has run its course.

[Dan] But if one wants to, one can regard Shamir's statements from yesterday as obstacles. He said it would be impossible to allow the participation of Arabs from East Jerusalem, and his statements could be interpreted to mean he would not permit the inclusion of deportees, either.

[Rabin] Let me say the real test will not be in speeches, but rather in practical resolutions, when we finally decide three or four central issues: the composition of the Palestinian delegation, the party that will announce the delegation, and the agenda for the meeting between the two delegations.

[Dan] By the way, David Levi seemed pretty optimistic several minutes ago regarding the decisions that will be made in the Inner Cabinet.

[Friedman] He said the Likud would stand as one man against the inclusion of East Jerusalem Arabs and deportees in the delegation. He claimed he received this information during his meeting yesterday evening with the prime minister.

[Rabin] He may know these facts. I am not trying to dispute his statements. As far as I am concerned, the test will come when we make the decisions and determine the principles that will guide the Israeli representatives meeting with the U.S. representatives or the Egyptian delegates. Will they be the Inner Cabinet resolutions, which are amenable to various interpretations, or an interpretation that blocks any chance of furthering the process?

[Friedman] If the resolutions you hope the Inner Cabinet will pass are not adopted, do you believe the Alignment should secede from the government and call for new elections, or does the option of a narrow-based government appear reasonable to you?

[Rabin] Look, I see things the following way: First, we must exhaust the chances. If we reach the stage where we are incapable of implementing the Cabinet and Inner Cabinet resolutions on convening a meeting of the two delegations—and I hope this does not happen—I have no doubt that, from my point of view, the government will have reached the end of the road. We will discuss what will happen afterwards when we come to that bridge.

[Friedman] Does Ari'el Sharon's resignation from the government make it easier to make progress in the political process?

[Rabin] Look, I am not going into the reasons for the resignation, but at the same time, I would like to make something clear: It is easy to speak about wiping out terror. More than seven and a half years after the Peace for Galilee campaign and more than four and a half years after our three-year stay in Lebanon, we see that initiated war—Israel's most miserable and unsuccessful war ever—which was aimed at uprooting terrorism, did not achieve anything. The price was to sink in the Lebanese quagmire. Whoever talks about fatalities and Jewish and Israeli blood should remember 30 years of intifadah will not result in the spilling of as much Jewish and Israeli blood as was spilled in that unsuccessful and miserable war, which did not uproot terrorism in Lebanon. All those who proffer miracle cures, especially those who were involved in and led that miserable war, therefore should take a good look in the mirror before making heroic speeches.

[Friedman] Mr. Rabin, Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday found it very difficult to get the Central Committee of his movement to adopt a resolution that might have had the backing of a large majority. Is this a prime minister who, in your view, can lead the country into a daring political move involving concessions over which quite a large segment of the population is divided?

[Rabin] I can say one thing with certainty: For the first time since the establishment of the two unity governments, there is an overall peace initiative that includes a chance to reach a peace process and also guarantees Israel's security. It is no secret for more than 20 years there have been differences between the Alignment and the Likud over the character of the permanent settlement. Nevertheless, in my view, the peace initiative—as approved by the Cabinet and as later reaffirmed by the Inner Cabinet with Secretary Baker's five points—continues to allow for the promotion of the process until proven otherwise.

[Dan] Minister Rabin, permit me to ask you, as a Labor Party member, a question which may be petty. Shamir told us yesterday no damage has been done to the Likud. Has no damage in fact been caused to the Likud?

[Rabin] I believe the scenes on television, what was heard on radio, and the descriptions in the newspapers speak for themselves. I have no reason to rejoice over what happened in the Likud Central Committee. As an Israeli citizen, as someone involved in public life, I regret seeing the scenes, hearing the voices, and seeing signs I believe even could pose a danger to democracy in Israel. I assume what happened will not go beyond the Likud. Something like this could not happen in the Labor Party, and that fills me with pride.

[Friedman] To conclude, Mr. Rabin, do you know if the continued negotiations, the composition of the delegation, the question of who will announce the talks, etc., will be raised at tomorrow's Inner Cabinet meeting, prior to the foreign minister's upcoming departure for Washington?

[Rabin] I, for one, would prefer there be a meeting prior to Minister Arens' departure—should there in fact be a preparatory meeting with Secretary Baker prior to the meeting between the three ministers from Israel, Egypt, and the United States—primarily to assure that the paths and opportunities to advance the peace process will not be blocked, and the responses given to proposals or possible directions which might be brought up in the Washington meeting—should it take place—not be ones that cannot be supported by both components of the government.

[Friedman] Will the debate therefore take place tomorrow in the Inner Cabinet?

[Rabin] I prefer it to take place in the forum of four, not in the Inner Cabinet. Everything in the Inner Cabinet is leaked, and I believe, at this stage, whoever wants to give peace a chance must make sure certain things, certain clarifications, not reach the media, because in my view, that is harmful. In the past, prime ministers and governments did not prematurely bring matters for a decision. There nevertheless must be an Inner Cabinet discussion and decision prior to a meeting between the two foreign ministers. The stage currently under discussion, if I understand the situation correctly, is one for clarifications, not decisions.

[Friedman] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, thank you very much.

[Rabin] Thank you.

Immigration of Soviet Jews to West Bank Viewed

'Understanding' With USSR Urged

JN1002150990 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Feb 90 first edition p 14

["Spotlight" column by Ibrahim al-'Absi: "For the Sake of Continued Friendship With the Soviet Union"]

[Text] A number of friends—cultured people, intellectuals, nationalists, and citizens—criticized me when I wrote an article last week in this column entitled "Blaming a Lover," in which I called on the Soviet Union to reconsider its policy of deporting the new Zionists to occupied Palestine, considering that the Soviets are the ones who would best know the extent of danger entailed by this emigration to the Palestinian individual and homeland.

I clarified in that article—which I wrote from the position of a lover—that the Soviet Union has always been a strong supporter of Arab issues in the international arena, and specifically the Palestinian issue. I have also referred to the role of the Soviet Union as a friend in supporting the Palestinian people's right to their land and to establish their independent state on the soil of that land. I also mentioned its support of the Arab countries—politically, economically, and militarily—when these countries came up against the imperialist and Zionist schemes and aggressive practices.

I do not believe that any one of us would deny this Soviet role throughout the past decades of our conflict with the Zionists and imperialists. Despite what happened and is happening as a result of the Soviet open policy and perestroyka, which reflected negatively on us in the Arab region in general and in Palestine in particular, I still believe that the angry propaganda campaign our Arab press is launching against the USSR, especially since this campaign is confined to angry words, will never be in our interest and will not benefit our cause at all. On the contrary, it will affect the Soviet stand toward all our issues, particularly our central cause, the issue of Palestine. The renegade and rancorous writers in the USSR as well as Zionism have begun to exploit this angry propaganda campaign to destroy our friendly relations with the USSR in an attempt to force the USSR to adopt a neutral stand toward our issues, and consequently to end its support for us.

Once again, in spite of what has happened and is happening, I believe that it is not in our interest to "defame" the USSR inasmuch as we need a serious, calm attitude, a responsible discussion, and a review of what has happened and is happening based on an understanding with the Soviets on all the negative developments. We should not push the campaign, through our "angry" good intentions, to the point of no return, or pave the way for the rancorous sides in the USSR, the Zionist entity, and the imperialist West to disengage our ties of friendship with the USSR, to eventually find ourselves face to face with two superpowers standing against us at international forums.

Editorial on Soviet UN Move

JN1302091090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Feb 90 p 3

[Editorial: "Forceful Action From the Arabs"]

[Text] The Soviet Union's move to seek a meeting of the United Nations Security Council in a bid to prevent the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip after letting them loose is simply not the best thing Moscow could do. What the Soviet Union is in effect doing is allowing a flood of Soviet Jews to leave the country and then try to build dams across the path of this flood in a bid to harness the direction of this human flood. Instead of controlling the flood after opening the gates in front of it, it would have been considerably more wise and more effective if the flood of Jewish immigration was not allowed to take place in the first place. One has to construe this latest Soviet tactic as simply passing the buck, as if the Soviet responsibility was shifted to the Security Council.

The crux of the problem remains whether to allow Jewish exodus at a time when the peace process is stalled and the probabilities of resettling Soviet Jews on Palestinian soil remain very high. Had the Soviet Union linked such massive Jewish immigration to solving the Palestinian problem, the damage might well be tolerated. But to facilitate massive Jewish immigration and then try to have the United Nations system control the damage is simply unacceptable. Moscow attaches now more importance to its relations with the West and Washington in particular but such an aim can be still pursued without any damage to Soviet-Arab relations. But to pretend that Soviet-Arab relations are as good as ever and concurrently allowing such a big threat to the Arab Order to grow into uncontrollable proportions is simply untenable. To go to the United Nations Security Council in search for solutions after causing the problem is tantamount to killing someone and then marching in his funeral. One still doubts that Moscow has this in mind. Nevertheless, the Arab masses will surely interpret the conflicting Soviet moves as a sign of strain in Soviet-Arab relations that needs to be contained before it gets out of hand.

Hopefully, the projected Arab summit if and when it materialises will deal with this issue of Soviet Jews in a clear and effective way. After making appeals to Washington and Moscow to arrest this mushrooming danger, the Arab leaders must be posed to take more forceful actions on the international scene. There are many options available to the Arab states to take in the face of this grave challenge and danger and all that is lacking is simply the political will and determination to do something really serious about it. Hopefully this absent ingredient will be there when the Arab leaders meet next.

Crown Prince Cited

JN1102094290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan Saturday warned against the increasing Soviet Jewish influx to the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza and said that the primary task at this time was to highlight the illegitimacy of settling Jews in the occupied territories.

In an interview broadcast by British radio, the Crown Prince stressed that any Israeli attempt to settle Soviet Jews in the occupied territories "will allow the forces of conflict and eviction to become the sign of our times."

The Crown Prince said that demography was the "main issue of the hour and it is a legal issue which has to be reassessed in all international forums, especially on the level of the United Nations."

"This will allow (the world) to be convinced that Israel's settlement policy in the occupied territories should be rejected in its essence and is illegal," Prince Hasan said.

The Crown Prince posed a question to the United Nations: "Twenty years after U.N. Resolution 242 was endorsed what has been done to implement it in practice?"

"This resolution stipulates that occupying lands of others by force is illegal and it also stresses the illegitimacy of settlement in the occupied territories," he said.

Prince Hasan added that if the issue was to be simplified it could be summarized in that "many of the countries look today to the idea of peaceful solution as the remedy to all hot regional issues, especially confrontational issues in the region.

"Many of these countries sometimes forget that there are foundations to reaching this called-for peaceful solution, such as respecting U.N. resolutions which called for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

"Then we would reach an international peace conference which would guarantee the needs and demands of the Arab Palestinian people in self-determination on their land," he said. "We honestly feel that the Middle East issue has become a side interest to many countries."

Prince Hasan called on the major powers of the world to shoulder their responsibility in respecting the various human rights, including the human rights of the Palestinian people.

"We are addressing the international conscience and the superpowers to find human solutions to the issues of human rights in the world but not at the expense of the oldest cause in the world...the cause of Palestinian self-determination," the Crown Prince said.

Debt Rescheduling Agreement Signed With USSR

JN0602121090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Feb 90 pp 1, 15

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Jordan and the USSR have agreed to reschedule the repayment of Soviet loans to Jordan due during the years 1989 and 1990. Part of these loans will be repaid through the exportation of Jordanian products to the USSR—something which will have positive effects on the march of economic development in Jordan.

The two sides reached this agreement tonight following intensive talks that started in Amman on Wednesday [31 January].

A press statement was issued at the end of the talks. The statement said that the Jordanian and Soviet sides have agreed that Jordan shall repay $42 million of Soviet loans through the exportation of Jordanian commodities and products to the USSR, including $20 million worth of phosphates. Other commodities will be exported to the USSR to repay the remaining amount.

The Jordanian side committed itself to repaying $4 million in cash before 15 March. The two sides also agreed to reschedule the repayment of $168 million with an annual five percent interest rate over a 12-year period, and with a grace period totalling six years during which only the interest on the loans will be paid.

The Soviet side promised to consider the possibility of importing vegetables and fruits from Jordan next year, in addition to the other commodities and products that it will import from Jordan.

It is expected that this agreement will expand the prospects of bilateral cooperation, as the exportation of Jordanian commodities, products, and raw materials to the USSR will enhance Jordan's export endeavors. Besides, this will reflect positively on the enhancement of economic growth in the country and also on the creation of new jobs.

Basil Jardanah, finance minister and head of the Jordanian side to negotiations with the Soviet delegation, delivered a speech after the signing of both the agreement and meeting minutes and the exchange of memoranda paying tribute to the understanding and cooperation displayed by the visiting Soviet delegation and affirming that this agreement will contribute toward expanding the prospects of bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

Vladimir Mordvinov, USSR deputy minister of foreign economic relations and head of the visiting delegation, delivered a speech in reply praising the good preparations for talks by the Jordanian side. He affirmed that he shares the belief of the finance minister that this agreement will make an effective contribution toward developing bilateral economic and trade ties, as this agreement will increase Jordanian exports to the USSR.

At the end of the ceremonies for signing the agreement and the exchange of speeches, Muhammad al-Saqqaf, secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade delivered a brief speech in which he requested the visiting USSR delegation to ask Soviet leaders to stop the Soviet Jewish emigration to the occupied Arab territories.

The Jordanian side to the talks comprised Muhammad al-Saqqaf, secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade; Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid Qasim, secretary general of the Ministry of Finance; Dr. Michel Martu, deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ]; Mansur Haddadin, director of finance at the Ministry of Finance; and Ms. Nili Batshun from the CBJ.

The Soviet delegation comprised a number of experts and advisers.

Delegation Leaves 6 Feb

JN0702100190 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Feb 90 p 19

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—A Soviet economic delegation has concluded a week-long working visit to the kingdom during which an agreement on rescheduling repayment of Soviet loans to Jordan was signed.

In a statement before leaving Amman yesterday, Vladimir Mordvinov, USSR deputy minister of foreign economic relations and head of the delegation, expressed his pleasure with his visit to Jordan and with the positive outcome of the Soviet-Jordanian talks.

He said that the agreement on rescheduling repayment of Soviet loans to Jordan will open new markets for Jordanian exports to the Soviet Union—exports that will activate the spheres of economic cooperation and increase the volume of Jordanian exports to the Soviet Union.

He also voiced his admiration for the development Jordan has achieved compared with its financial capabilities, stressing that the future will bring prosperity and progress.

Columnist Hails Call for Reviving 'Eastern Front'

JN1302095090 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Feb 90 second edition p 12

["A Case and an Opinion" column by Salamah 'Ukur: "We Support Deputies' Call for Reviving the Eastern Front"]

[Text] The warm, serious, and wise call made yesterday by certain deputies to revive the Eastern Front to face the expansionist Zionist scheme against the Arab lands and waters came at the proper time to reflect the aspirations of our people and the Arab nation and to correspond to the requirements of the phase. Israel is indeed going ahead with its strategy to establish its big state at the expense of the Arab lands and waters.

Those who study carefully and thoroughly what is taking place now in Israel and the occupied territories will understand the fact that Israel will inevitably try to evacuate the Arab citizens from the occupied territories and will deal stronger and more fascist blows against the intifadah. They will also see that the plans of "the alternative homeland" and "Jordan is the solution" have indeed become an intrinsic part of the Israeli scheme from which it will not retreat in light of the current status quo, when the Arab situation suffers from weakness, fragmentation and hesitation and when there are no alternatives to the futile peace efforts.

We wrote in this column a few days ago that following the influx of thousands of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, Israel has seriously begun to think about ways to absorb those great numbers of people and settle them at the expense of the Arab citizens.

We also said that Israel has turned over the page of peace and that from Israel's viewpoint, peace initiatives, steps, and efforts have became a thing of the past. We also said that the Israeli war is coming and only the blind cannot see this.

Therefore, the call made by some deputies to revive the Eastern Front and to mass fighting, economic, and political resources of the frontline states shows that our people's representatives are very wise and alert. It also demonstrates their concern about the homeland's security and sovereignty and about the Arab security in general.

Naturally, serious and responsible steps must be made to pave the way for and facilitate the revival of the Eastern Front to make it a real confrontation front. Undoubtedly, resolving the differences among the brothers in Syria, Iraq, and the PLO must be the first of these steps. This is because the pan-Arab task of facing the Israeli aggression against the Arab nation and protecting Arab security and Arab lands and waters from the expansionist Zionist desires calls for freezing, suspending, or ending any differences among the brothers. Without such a step, any talk about preparedness to confront the expansionist Zionist scheme will be futile and no one can be convinced of it.

The call made by our people's representatives to revive the Eastern Front among the frontline states is worth considering by Iraq, Syria, Jordan, and the PLO. It also deserves to be answered today rather than tomorrow.

We salute our people's representatives who advocate the revival of the Eastern Front. We express our satisfaction with their awareness and analysis, which shows a large degree of alertness and concern for the homeland's security and the pan-Arab security in general.

Admission Percentage of West Bank Students Raised

JN1102091290 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Feb 90 first edition p 1

[By 'Abd-al-Khaliq al-Mumani]

[Excerpt] An official source at the Ministry of Higher Education said that the Ministry has raised the percentage of admission for students from the West Bank to Jordanian universities and public and private community colleges to five percent; that is, an increase of two percent more than previously.

The source added: This increase was made to give the largest number of students from the West Bank the chance to study. It is expected that the number of West Bank students accepted at private community colleges will reach 2,000, in addition to 300 at public community colleges. [passage omitted]

Officials, Palestinian Envoy Hold Meetings

JN1202123090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Feb 90 pp 1, 20

[Text] Amman—'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, political adviser to his majesty the king, has called for the need to assert both the Palestinian national identity and the Jordanian national identity. However, he said, this assertion should not stem from a separatist regionalist view but from a common struggle to confront Zionist schemes, which seek to wipe out the Palestine question and conspire against the Jordanian national identity through the so-called alternative homeland.

This came during Abu-'Awdah's meeting in the Royal Hashemite Court yesterday with Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the ambassador of Palestine to Jordan. Discussion during this meeting dealt with the situation in the Palestinian and Arab arenas and the effect of international changes on the Palestine question and Arab national security.

Ambassador 'Abd-al-Rahim referred to the identity of viewpoints that the Palestinian people's intifadah in the occupied homeland forms the shield that protects Arab national security and confronts Zionist ambitions on Jordan.

The ambassador of Palestine also met with Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din. Their discussion covered various issues of common concern, including coordination in the information field between the kingdom and the state of Palestine in order to confront Israeli attempts to obliterate Palestinian national struggle identity through the intensive Soviet Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe to Israel.

Ministry Forms Committee To Amend Press Laws

JN1302114490 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Amman—Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din has decided to form a committee to amend the Press and Publications Law and the Press Association Law. The committee, which is chaired by the Ministry's secretary general, includes as members the director general of the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, the director of the Press and Publications Department, and the Ministry's legal adviser.

Later, the committee will be joined by several leading members of the media and journalists to help it prepare the final draft of the proposed amendments.

The formation of the committee comes in fulfillment of the government's pledge to the House of Representatives to amend the Press and Publications Law to make it compatible with the new developments in our country and to safeguard the citizens' constitutional rights, especially their public liberties.

Clashes, Shelling Reported in Eastern Area 12 Feb

NC1202181790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Intermittent clashes took place this evening on the 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Tahwitah, and al-'Adliyah combat lines. The 'Awn group fired two artillery shells at the Lebanese Forces Command General Headquarters. One artillery shell was also directed at Sasin area in al-Ashrafiyah at 1645, and shelling the outskirts of al-Ashrafiyah resumed at 1800.

Earlier, intermittent clashes took place on the Darayya and al-Qulay'at combat lines after the 'Awn group opened fire, damaging houses and institutions. Our security correspondent reported that forces loyal to 'Awn, who have taken positions in the civil defense building in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, have opened fire at civilians in the area, killing a man and wounding a woman.

The 'Awn group entered a silversmith's workshop in Harat al-Majadilah, stole everything, and blew it up. Red Cross sources told our radio that today Red Cross teams collected 35 bodies from the combat areas and from the hospitals in the eastern area.

Clashes Continue 13 Feb

NC1302114490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Intermittent clashes using machineguns and rockets are currently taking place along the al-Tahwitah-al-Maliyah-al-'Adliyah axis. General 'Awn's military units are opening sniper fire in the vicinity of 'Ayn al-Rummanah.

Milan Missiles Reportedly Used

NC1202222390 Paris AFP in English 1849 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Beirut, Feb 12 (AFP)—Rival Christian fighters traded sporadic artillery fire Monday in mountains north of the Lebanese capital, where both sides have reportedly sent reinforcements.

The Lebanese Forces (LF) militia said it was using French-built Milan missiles to repel attacks launched by Lebanese Army soldiers loyal to General Michel 'Awn.

But the fighting was less heavy than Saturday [10 February], when the Army mounted its bid to capture the mountainous LF stronghold of Kasrawan, some 20 kilometers (12 miles) from Beirut, security sources said.

At least 491 people have been killed and 1,832 wounded, mostly fighters rather than civilians, since a battle for supremacy in Christian territory erupted January 31, according to a new toll compiled from hospital reports. [passage omitted]

Contacts Between 'Awn, Al-Hirawi Governments Noted

NC1302100890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] According to sources in West Beirut, one of the ministers in General 'Awn's government has held contacts with another minister in the government of President Ilyas al-Hirawi. The contacts, which revolved around the situation on the Kafr Shima and Suq al-Gharb fronts, resulted in mutual promises and pledges that these fronts would not be subjected to any development that may surprise Gen 'Awn and the remnants of the Army units.

According to the same sources, Gen 'Awn has withdrawn his forces from these fronts and moved them to the borders of Kasrawan and al-Dubayyah area to shell villages and towns in the eastern area.

Lebanese Forces Halt 'Media Campaigns' 12 Feb

NC1202195690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Statement by the Lebanese Forces' information department issued on 12 February—read by announcer]

[Text] At the instructions of the Lebanese Forces command, in response to the tripartite mediation committee's efforts aimed at normalizing the situation in the free areas, in harmony with the firm Lebanese Forces' position maintaining that internal conflict will lead to society's destruction and will benefit no one, in confirmation of its constant favorable response to all good efforts to stop the continuing bleeding at all levels, and considering that the Lebanese Forces have always been the first to abide by the cease-fire and prevent a flare up, on the basis of all this, the Lebanese Forces' Information Department announces that it is abiding by the agreement to stop the media campaigns effective 2000 on Monday, 12 February 1990.

Samir Ja'ja' Holds News Conference 8 Feb

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[News conference held by Lebanese Forces Commander Dr, Samir Ja'ja' with unidentified correspondents at the Lebanese Forces Command Headquarters in East Beirut on 8 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Ja'ja'] We wish that these battlefields were not our battlefields. Our battlefields are in Bhamdun, Qnat, and on the Lebanese borders. The one we are fighting now is not nor will be our enemy. Our enemy is the Syrian Army in Lebanon, all the foreign armies here, and all those who try to control Lebanon, impose any system on it, or occupy it. Before addressing directly the events of this week, I want to discuss their wider and more comprehensive framework, which is the correct framework.

General 'Awn has been making statements and giving interviews daily for the past year and four months, or approximately 1 and ½ years. We have heard him talk for about 500 hours—no, more like 600, 700, and perhaps even 1,000 hours. We heard justifications for and theories about everything. We heard proposals dealing with everything and we heard about victories which take us to the border of Syria from one direction and to the border of the Arabian Peninsula from the other direction. We heard about victories permitting us to change the democracies in Western Europe, occupy America, and liberate Australia. We heard all of this.

On the basis of these victories, popular activities were initiated. There has been long and wide [words indistinct]. The general and some of his followers believe that we have done what is necessary. They believe that we have already liberated Lebanon and chosen a new system in which we entrenched freedom. However, freedom was devoured. We no longer have freedom. Freedom boiled like water boils in a saucepan and spilled to the border of Syria, swept Syria and toppled the Syrian regime, swept the Arab states and toppled the regimes in the Arabian Peninsula because the people there are good but the regimes are not. We returned and attacked in the direction of the west and brought down West Europe because the democracies there are unsteady and do not conform with the spirit of the age. We then reached America because we still have some strongholds there we want to destroy and implement the solution.

We have heard many proposals and theories. However, let us actually see what the poor, deprived, and exhausted Lebanese nationals have harvested from all these proposals. Talk is very good, young men. The windmill victories are very good. There is nothing better than hypothetical proposals. Talk about the great principles is wonderful. Each one of us has a life to live within a society. In other words, there are people who stand on their feet, reside in houses, and who formed a society in the homeland. We want to see what happened to these people and whether they have triumphed or lost.

I will now look at the past. Regardless of the reasons, the destruction caused during this one week of fighting is much more than the destruction which the Syrian Army and all the world's armies could have inflicted on our society. If the Syrian, Iranian, Palestinian, and Israeli armies wanted to destroy our society, they would have not been able to destroy as much as we ourselves and Gen. 'Awn and his group destroyed during this week—regardless of who is right and who is wrong. Whether the general or anyone else was right or not, the destruction and ruination which took place has taken place, those who died have died, and what has been destroyed has been destroyed.

What was the result? Society, Christians, the Lebanese, and Lebanon were ruined. Michel 'Awn is responsible for that. I do not want to go into details. Do you know why the Americans are successful? They are successful because they are pragmatic. When you talk to them about something, they say: It does not matter. I am concerned with what they call the end-product [preceding word in English]. It is the end-product that matters. I do not care who went, who came, who betrayed. The Americans left or they did not; it will be all right now or it won't be. What I care about is the fact that we started from one specific point 1 and ½ years ago and we have now reached a nadir. We started from an idealistic position as Lebanese and as Christians but have now reached the point that no one envies us. Gen. 'Awn is responsible for what happened between then and now. I am going to air all the dirty laundry.

Gen. 'Awn says that the battles are taking place now because the Lebanese Forces support the al-Ta'if accord. All right. I will agree with this for the sake of argument. Then why were there battles on 14 February 1989? Why did Gen. 'Awn attack the Lebanese Forces with his army? Was there an al-Ta'if accord on 14 February 1989? [passage omitted]

He is saying now that he is fighting and hitting the Lebanese Forces because it supports the al-Ta'if accord. Can he tell us why he attacked the Lebanese Forces on 14 February when there was no al-Ta'if accord? Does anyone among you have the answer? No one. [passage omitted]

Some people thought at the time that we did not confront Gen. 'Awn in February 1989 because of a certain weakness. This is not true and these events are the best evidence that this is not true. Our stand then was based on awareness and our belief that we should spare society a murderous war like the one that took place. We did all we could then and said: All right, whatever Michel 'Awn wants, be patient with him. Let it pass so that no one in this society will be harmed. We stopped the battles and draconian conditions were in fact imposed on us. [passage omitted]

He then launched his war of liberation. Would anyone believe what lay behind it? Would anyone believe that I, just like you, heard about this war of liberation from the radio? Would you believe that I, the Lebanese Forces commander, heard about it on the radio? I was sleeping in the office when I heard the sound of shells everywhere. My first thought and fear was that battles had erupted in this area because there was still tension between us and the army.

I hurried to see what was happening and contain it immediately. I telephoned the Lebanese Forces operations room and asked them. They said that West Beirut was being shelled. Why? They did not know. Who was shelling? The operations room said it was the army. Why? They did not know. I then dressed and went out to see what was happening. West Beirut was being shelled, and then I heard Gen. 'Awn declaring the start of the war of liberation on the radio. How do you start the war? Is the war of liberation a joke? Does one start a war of

liberation just because he [words indistinct] in Lebanon and or because he had an argument with his wife? [passage omitted]

What was the reason for the war of liberation? It was this: The general hit the Lebanese Forces so that he can obtain the presidency of the Republic. It then emerged that they [the Syrians] did not want him to be president though he had attacked the Lebanese Forces. He then launched the war of liberation to avenge himself on them. This is the background for this war of liberation which deceived the whole world and for which people had spilled blood. [passage omitted]

The war of liberation stopped. What this war amounted to was the general sitting underground in his palace while the wretched people stopped their work and stayed in their homes. All that happened is some shelling here and there. The general was in his shelter and the people stopped, work not knowing what to do. We called these artillery duels the war of liberation. [passage omitted]

I want to ask Gen. 'Awn on what basis he started the war of liberation? If it was to defeat the Syrians militarily, then why did he not defeat them? If he started it because there was a foreign state, or states, who would help him, then why did they not to do so? If he started it on the basis of holding negotiations, then negotiations were held in al-Ta'if. I hold Gen. 'Awn responsible for the conclusion of the al-Ta'if agreement. The al-Ta'if agreement was the reflection of the balance of power on the ground. [passage omitted]

You, Gen. 'Awn, started the war of liberation. You must tell me on what basis you started it. Can anyone start a war the size of the war of liberation without knowing on what basis he does so. If you started it to score a military victory over the Syrians, then why did you not win? If you started it because there were foreign states ready to help you, then why did they not help you? If you started it to force negotiations, then we reached the stage of the neogitations. If your calculations were wrong, you should quit because no one has the right to wage such a destructive war without achieving no result but inflicting such a calamity on society. Who did he blame? He blamed the patriarch, deputies, and political dignitaries. Gen. 'Awn, you cannot continue to survive at the expense of political victims. For you to continue to exist, you must daily provide a political victim for the people. I do not say that the patriarch or the deputies are good. I do not want to judge the patriarch or the deputies now. However, it is a shame. We want to put matters in their true perspective. One of us must be a man, bold, and objective. He must admit that he did so and so. If his enemy did nothing wrong, he must not accuse him of doing so and if his friend did something wrong, he must say so. If he himself did something wrong, then he must admit his wrong.

I want to ask Gen. 'Awn why he accepted the Arab committee's seven-point peace plan. Why did he accept this plan before the deputies went to al-Ta'if. This plan provided inter-alia for a cease-fire and the formation of a security committee to observe the coast and search ships. It also provided for the deputies to meet abroad to reach a political solution and revive the institutions in the country. The deputies who were to hold the negotiations were known. He says: I did not know that the deputies will betray us. The deputies' logic was known. It was also known what stand the United States would adopt. His beatitude's inclination was also known. One must take all of this into consideration. What is a politician's job? He must know precisely what every person could do or say.

Gen. 'Awn waged this war for seven months because he rejected any security committee unless it was a Lebanese-Syrian committee. We waged this war because he claimed that he wanted to end the identification of this war as a Lebanese-Lebanese war and put it in its true perspective, that is a Lebanese-Syrian war. Why then did you accept, O general, a Lebanese-Lebanese security committee later? We could have stopped the war three or four months earlier when it was first proposed to form a Lebanese-Lebanese security committee in May, June, and July. We would have spared ourselves all this destruction. Why did you not go along with this proposal then? When the proposal to observe the shores was made last June and July, you raised hell, saying: Do you want to treat me like a smuggler? Gen. 'Awn thinks of any enemy as smuggler. He considers all his friends, even if they indulge in smuggling, as saints. [passage omitted]

Have matters reached the point that whoever has military strength can speak but will not allow others to speak and that he will make allegations against them and stage demonstrations against them if they do? This is a new kind of terrorism. You can terrorize with weapons or by staging demonstrations. If you want to terrorize someone, you can aim a pistol at his head or stage a demonstration against him. There are sophisticated methods. The small terrorists are naive compared to the big ones who contemplate very modern methods of terrorism. What is the best method? [passage omitted]

Regarding the al-Ta'if accord, you can rest assured that based on the balance of power produced by the war of liberation and its consequences, Michel 'Awn would have obtained an accord exactly like the al-Ta'if accord. This is because the deputies, as you know, resort to tactics and maneuvers to obtain the maximum effect. But Michel 'Awn, who is impatient, could have obtained much less than the deputies did.

If Samir Ja'ja' had gone to al-Ta'if after the war of liberation he would have obtained exactly the same accord the deputies did. Why? Because this accord was dictated by the balance of power. Why should you wage a war on yourself if you are not sure of the balance of power or if anyone will help you? Why should you wage this war. Why? Why? In my opinion, the deputies made a big mistake. They should have refused to go to al-Ta'if and insisted that Gen. 'Awn go himself to negotiate or to refuse the Arab committee's agreement. He should take

responsibility for all this because he is the one who started the whole issue and must be the one to end it. I wish history would repeat itself; I wish history would repeat itself to see what Gen. 'Awn could have achieved if he himself had gone to al-Ta'if. I wish history would repeat itself to see what kind of accord Gen. 'Awn could have attained. I can tell you that if Michel 'Awn, Samir Ja'ja', Bashir al-Jumayyil, St. Marun, and St. Mitri had gone to al-Ta'if, they would not have obtained a better accord. [passage omitted]

Gen. 'Awn made a big mistake when he refused to let the deputies return to East Beirut after the al-Ta'if talks. The deputies had to go to al-Qulay'at to elect Rene Mu'awwad. Rene Mu'awwad is dead now, but I want to say something for the record. In 1988, the Americans sponsored negotiations between the Christian team and Syria over presidential candidates. The Christian team included Amin al-Jumayyil, his beatitude the patriarch, a representative of the Lebanese Forces, and a number of deputies. Rene Mu'awwad was at the top of the list as the Christian presidential candidate. He who wishes to ascertain this fact can verify the matter with the Americans, Amin al-Jumayyil, Elie Salim, Ghassan al-Tuwayni, Karim Paqraduni, or anyone who took part in this issue. Rene Mu'awwad had been favored among Christians in 1988. [passage omitted]

Gen. 'Awn rejected Mu'awwad because he signed the al-Ta'if accord, but this was a bad excuse. Gen. 'Awn used the al-Ta'if accord as an excuse to scare the people. We should have invited Rene Mu'awwad to East Beirut and reached an understanding with him. We could have told him what parts of the al-Ta'if accord we rejected and what parts we accepted. Regrettably, nothing like this happened. We left Rene Mu'awwad hostage in the hands of Hizballah and the thugs until either the Syrians, Hizballah, or someone else killed him. Only God knows who killed Mu'awwad. What I know is that a Lebanese figure, who could have helped end our current deadlock, was neglected and thrown in a place where he did not belong. He was martyred, and we lost our chance. [passage omitted]

In light of all that I have said, let me give a short account: Gen. 'Awn has been the official in charge for a year and a half. Let me give an account of the country when he took over and the country now. [passage omitted] Let us give a short account: The first point is the Syrian presence in Lebanon. This is the central, pivotal issue, and we have all, including Gen. 'Awn, agreed on this. [passage omitted]

More than three or four months ago, the Arabs used to meet to discuss how to oust the Syrians from Lebanon. First, a six-member committee was formed, then a three-member committee. A summit was held in Casablanca to discuss how to oust the Syrians from Lebanon. Americans and Soviets were discussing how to oust the Syrians from Lebanon. Whenever the Europeans met, they discussed how to oust the Syrians from Lebanon. That is how we began a year ago, right? Currently what is the central pivotal issue for the Arabs, the West, or the East? They stopped (?discussing) how to oust the Syrians from Lebanon, and now discuss how to oust Michel 'Awn from B'abda. The world is split in two. Although both parts agree that he must leave B'abda, one part proposes he be ousted by force, and the other part proposes he be ousted peacefully. [passage omitted]

In the beginning, the whole world was on our side discussing how to oust the Syrians from Lebanon. This is over now, and no state is presently on our side, thanks to Gen. 'Awn's cleverness and absurd policy. Instead of considering how to oust Syria from Lebanon, all the states of the world are now thinking of how to oust Michel 'Awn from B'abda. What is Gen. 'Awn's reaction to this? His direct response is that it is a conspiracy. [passage omitted]

Can you tell me what states now support us? The Vatican and France are concerned about the Christians, but [words indistinct] in danger. More than that, they also recognize Ilyas al-Hirawi. This means they are not on our side politically, but as human beings. They do not want the Christians to fight or to be harmed. Other than that, they are on Ilyas al-Hirawi's side, not on ours. Great. That was the first point.

The second point is that we started out with full legitimacy in our areas—full legitimacy. Some of the states dealt with Salim al-Huss only on the basis of a fait accompli, but basically they recognized our legitimacy. Now we end up with not one iota of legitimacy in the eastern area. Legitimacy was ours in the eastern area, but we have thrown it away and now have no legitimacy. Now if we want to buy a bag of potatoes from any state, we need the signature of the economy minister, whoever he may be. [passage omitted]

We dissolved the Chamber of Deputies. Brother, the important thing is not for you to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies, but for the chamber to dissolve itself. You dissolved it but it was not dissolved. The chamber continued and elected a president for the Republic whom the whole world recognized. Gen. 'Awn, if I recognize you as president of the Republic or as a prime minister, how does this benefit you or us? What then? Very well, now I appoint Ilyas Karam president of America, and I recognize him as president of America. Fine. Ilyas is happy about this, but what good will this do? How long are we going to laugh at each other? I would like to ask Gen. 'Awn: If he signs his own passport or makes any decisions, who is going to implement them now? Nobody will. Now, Michel 'Awn's state is exactly like the Lebanese Forces' state. I wonder how the general still differentiates between a state and a statelet. No, now he must propose that the people choose between Michel 'Awn's statelet and Samir Ja'ja's statelet and not between a state and a statelet. The people have to choose between one statelet and the other. However, I can certainly do more in foreign affairs than Gen. 'Awn because I am not isolated. I have not isolated myself, and we still have the necessary relations with all foreign states. The American,

the Soviet, all the Arab ambassadors, and ambassadors world wide can come and see me. As for Gen. 'Awn, nobody will go see him. [passage omitted]

Therefore, we began with the pivotal issue of ousting Syria from Lebanon, and we ended up with all the people supporting Syria. Now, can you see any state attacking Syria? Some three or four months ago, many countries were asking Syria to pull out of Lebanon. Now no one is asking Syria to withdraw. Instead, everyone is now asking Michel 'Awn to withdraw from B'abda. We started with legitimacy all on our side and ended up with no legitimacy at all. [passage omitted]

He is spending his time organizing demonstrations, causing clamors, and drum-beating and honking horns on streets, at a time when we are indeed in a catastrophe. There are now 45,000 Syrian soldiers in Lebanon. Before, there were only 25,000 soldiers. We started in the hope of liberating part of Lebanon, but now there are twice as many Syrian soldiers. Only God knows when they will leave. What then and what next?

We began with two armies working together and now we have driven them to strike at one another. This is the latest of Gen. 'Awn's deeds. We began with two military forces, but then let them fight with each other. We had steadfast people, but we killed them. We sought to dispose of the Syrians, but we are now killing our people who are dying under rubble and in shelters without food or water. What is this policy? Could anyone explain this policy?

I am not concerned about Gen. 'Awn's intention, what is going on in his mind, or what he wanted to do. What concerns me is what excatly he has done. This is because Gen. 'Awn made us lose legitimacy whether we like it or not. He made us lose all international support. We are now isolated at the international and Arab levels. We doubled the number of Syrians in Lebanon. We had between 20,000 and 25,000 Syrian soldiers, but now there are between 40,000 and 45,000. We had a secure and calm eastern area and we wanted to make Lebanon into a Switzerland. Now we have hell in the eastern area, similar to Beirut's Southern Suburb. As Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah did in the Southern Suburb and in the south, Gen. 'Awn is doing in the eastern area. What is this policy? Can anyone explain it to me? How did Gen. 'Awn dare to do this? [passage omitted]

Gen. 'Awn has been diverting the people's attention: He started with deputies, then Patriarch Sfayr, the Americans, the Soviets, and last but not least with the Lebanese Forces and anyone else he happens to think about. In the meantime, his real goal is to control everything in the eastern area. This is the only thing that concerns him. Nothing else matters to him. [passage omitted]

Syria used to be our principal enemy. Now we have Syria and the United States as our enemies. How can we confront the entire world? After the Americans, Gen. 'Awn attacked the Soviets, and after the Soviets, he attacked the Arabs. This is absolutely wrong. How can we proceed with our cause. No one except God knows. I am sure you are aware that Syria can bring any force to Lebanon now and at the same time it can pull out any force from Lebanon. But in the past all hell broke loose when Syria moved one single soldier. All countries now believe that Syria has positive stands while the Christians, who are represented by Gen. 'Awn, cannot have any say. They also believe that the Christians are quite confused and want to wage a war. All countries say, let the Christians and the Syrians fight if they want. We lost all our foreign friends. Because of our behavior, all the foreign states do not support Lebanon. The Americans are not only against us, they are furious with Gen. 'Awn because of what he has done.

When Gen. 'Awn ran out of victims, he started looking for others both inside and outside Lebanon, but in vain. He then looked around him and found the Lebanese Forces. Why did he leave the Lebanese Forces until the end? Because he knows well that the Lebanese Forces are not an easy prey. The Lebanese Forces are not the patriarch or the deputies, no offense I hope. He knows that the Lebanese Forces are not easy to deal with. [passage omitted]

It is not we who started the war. Let 'Awn give me one single hard fact that we are the ones who started the war. He is the one who started when he occupied the Lebanese Forces' Bayt al-Mustaqbal, moved to occupy al-Dubayyah and to deploy his troops in Jubayl to besiege the Lebanese Forces' centers there. Interrogation of the captives revealed that there had been preparations as part of an integrated military plan. It is he who started it when he said on the radio that he wants to abolish the Lebanese Forces. [passage omitted]

He is the one who stabbed us in the back. Who started the war? He started the war. We never stabbed him in the back, although we could have when he was surrounded from all directions. If the issue is like what you are trying to portray, we would have allowed Emile Lahhud to enter Kasrawan and Jubayl, which are under our control. We also have full control of Jisr al-Madfun, 'Amshit barracks, and all of Jubayl, but we did not let Emile Lahhud and his army in Sarba. You ought to be ashamed of your lies. You wanted to wipe out the Lebanese Forces, control the eastern area, and deprive the people of their freedoms. The whole thing has nothing to do with al-Ta'if. You know well our position toward al-Ta'if. Let me tell you that if what you say is true we could have let al-Hirawi, Lahhud, and his army in Sarba. We could have let them in Sarba, Kasrawan, and Jubayl now that we have full control of the crossing points. What you say is not true. It is all lies. [passage omitted]

We have maintained all our fronts. Currently, the army holds 40 percent of the total fronts, and we have 60 percent. Suffice it to say that we are holding onto our fronts. We have not and will not let anyone infiltrate our fronts. What we have done in the war of liberation is sufficient. 'Awn sought to stab us in the back and tried to finish us off. Now he has some supporters, and he is

trying to replace us. The current war is not over the al-Ta'if accord; let no one deceive anyone. It is not a war over Ilyas al-Hirawi, Emile Lahhud, or the eastern area. This war for control of everything in when he assailed the patriarch, the deputies, the politi cal parties, the radios, the television stations, the newspapers, and everything. He wanted to control everything, and he did not want to leave anything out. Either you say yes sir to him, or he will not accept anything. Now he is trying to take over the Lebanese Forces, but I will not let him do this. He cannot take them over, and everything has proven this. I want to tell him one thing: We will continue to fight for 100 years, but we will not let him take us over. I will not accept this. The Lebanese Forces are more authentic, honorable, and patriotic than he is. We will not accept have a longer history, and are much bigger than he is, someone like Michel 'Awn giving us lessons in patriotism. I reject this.

When we started to fight the Syrians in Billa in 1977, 'Awn, John Farah, John Nasif, and all his officers were sitting with the Syrians within the framework of the Arab Deterrent Force. We were small groups forming commandos units against the Syrian army, where we started raising the slogan "Know your enemy," where we said the Syrian is your enemy, be careful, the cards somewhere. I will not accept now. Now he is saying treason. What he is trying to do to the Syrians? His actions led to who handed legitimacy number of Syrians in Lebanon? He did this. Who doubled the treason, even if he did it indirectly did. He committed indirect, but the treason he is actually. I am sure it was calling everyone a traitor. This is committing directly is been for the Lebanese Forces, the disgraceful. Had it not have been steadfast for 15 years the country would not minister, and we were the first to resign. He came as prime this was our fault. I recognized him recognize him. Perhaps government an independent one. I am and considered his politically support him when everyone was against him. We were the first to The saying, beware of those to whom you are good, applies here.

When consultations to form a government were under way in B'abda Palace, Gen. 'Awn took me aside in the conference room near the president's office—I say this for the record—and said: Samir, I swear by my military honor that I will protect the Lebanese Forces just like I am protecting the Army. Where is your military honor, Gen. 'Awn?

No one supported him, both politically and morally, more than we did. What have we gained many problems, beginning with [1989] fighting and ending with the 14 February reached the point of trying to abolish us. He current fighting. He want to abolish us, Gen. 'Awn? Why do you abolish us because we support the al-Ta'if accord. He says he wants to do you have to do with us? Either we have political freedoms or we do not. What do you have to do with us? Do we have no right to take a political stand? Whether I am for or against this or that, you have nothing to do with me. If there are political freedoms, I have a right to express my views. I want to be able to side with the devil if I want. I know how to oppose the al-Ta'if accord if I am against it, and I know how to be a politician. We foiled agreements in the past, and we know how to foil agreements and how to be politicians. But he does not know how to be a politician, as everything has shown. He wants everyone to be stupid in politics. [words indistinct] this is political stupidity. I will not be equal to him in political stupidity, because I just cannot. Gen. 'Awn, you can stick with your stupidity. We know how to be politicians. You made the al-Ta'if accord, and I know how to deal with this accord. Enough of the uproar over al-Ta'if. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, after beating around the bush he asks: What is your position regarding the al-Ta'if agreement? He beats around the bush then asks: Declare your stand regarding the al- Ta'if accord. I have declared our stand regarding al-Ta'if. In other words, if our position is not in line with his, it is not considered a proper position. If there are political freedoms in the country, then my position is the one that I declared. Does it have to be a yes or no? Politics does not work this way. In politics you do not say yes even if you want it, and you do not say no even if you do not want it.

Excuse me, General, but I have to say that your political experience is less than zero, so you cannot portray us all as ignorant in politics. No one says a straight no to something that he does not want, or else he will fall, like you did, and no one says yes to something that he wants. The general wants either a yes or a no. I don't want to say yes or no to al-Ta'if. I know how to work it out, I know how to play it, and I know the country's interests more than you do. Patriotism is one thing you cannot claim you are concerned about more than I am. Do not think you can corner me into saying yes or no, no one can corner me. It is you who is cornered now. So, there is nothing called yes or no. I know what my position regarding the al-Ta'if will be. If a hornet flies near my mother's face I will not drop a stone on it, but I know how to get it off her face.

Then again he beats around the bush regarding the al-Ta'if. The matter has turned into an engagement in demagoguery and there is no use for logic any more. It is I who want to address you, Gen. 'Awn, and ask you to get rid of this demagoguery. Let us end this absurd, false, ridiculous, and chaotic situation because we have many problems to take care of. Tell me how you are going to handle the issue of legitimacy or the current situation where people are locked up in shelters. Could you, Gen. 'Awn, tell me why you started this war? Regardless of your reasons, why don't you end it now? We do not want this war and we want to end it right away, now. Why don't you end your war. But if you continue your attack on us, we will certainly defend ourselves until the last moment. Otherwise, we do not want this war, absolutely not. Why don't you end your war against the people. For 50 years we have been building this army, sparing nothing to pay the salaries, keep it well prepared, and

provide it with updated and heavy-caliber weapons. Was all this meant for him to pound al-Dubayyah, Nahr al-Mawt, al-Dawrah, al-Nab'ah, Sinn al-Fil, Hursh Thabit, al-Ashrafiyah, Beirut, and 'Ayn al-Rummanah, the last area shelled with 155-mm and tank fire from all sides. Why? You cannot get rid of the Lebanese Forces. But if they wanted to, they could get rid of you. We could get rid of you the moment we decide to, but you cannot get rid of them. [passage omitted]

Before I end my talk I want to clarify a number of points. Then I will give you a chance to ask whatever questions you want. Gen. 'Awn says that reservists and not regular troops are handling the situation in the inside [of the eastern areas]. This is not true. Gen. 'Awn withdrew all the troops from all the fronts. To be more specific, he pulled Battalions 52 and 53 from the Bikfayya-al-Dawwar front and put them in Beirut and al-Dubayyah, and withdrew Battalion 101 and part of 102 and 103 from Suq al-Gharb and put them in Beirut and in Battalion 51 from Kafr Shima, where we had a few boys. Now anyone could overrun it if he wanted to. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] My question is about al-Dubayyah, or the so-called al-Dubayyah victory. What is the significance of this so-called victory on the ground and for the future of the area, if such a future exists?

[Ja'ja'] The al-Dubayyah victory was not a victory. This is because when you use a whole army—three or four infantry battalions, plus two commando companies, plus two or three artillery battalions, plus two armored battalions [laughter] for three days—against 100 young men in order to take al-Dubayyah, this is no victory. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] We notice there are now new contact lines and areas isolated from each other?
[Ja'ja'] The situation must be normalized.

[Correspondent] Can a committee undertake such an action?
[Ja'ja'] Possibly.

[Correspondent] But will not normalization of the situation on the ground lead to new friction after a while?
[Ja'ja'] Not necessarily. I am sorry to speak with this logic but I must say that now there are pure areas [controlled entirely either by the Lebanese Forces or the Lebanese Army]. There will be no problems in Kasrawan and Jubayl. Moreover, the Lebanese Forces control East Beirut and 'Ayn al-Rumannah while the Lebanese Army controls upper and southern al-Matn.

[Correspondent] Then there are contact lines. How can we cross from one area to another?
[Ja'ja'] No, not contact lines. We will normalize the situation on the ground. The military will return to their barracks as before. That is all. All the people will reuturn to their work. The military, whether the Lebanese Forces or the Army, will remain in their barracks and everything will return to normal. However, it should be clear that an army patrol will not go to Karsawan or Jubayl, nor will a Lebanese Forces patrol go to northern or southern al-Matn. Thus, there will be no chance of a clash. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] The people say: Since the Lebanese Forces had reservations about the war of liberation, why did they support the general in the liberation war? Without the Lebanese Forces, the general would not have been able to continue this war.
[Ja'ja'] First, because for nine months we wanted to avoid what we are seeing now. The present situation is the worst we have ever witnessed. Second, in any quarrel between a Lebanese citizen and a Syrian citizen, we as Lebanese Forces must support the Lebanese citizen, whether he is right or wrong. However, more important than all this, for one year I have been silent and swallowing knives so that we would not reach the present situation. It became clear that even if we swallowed all the knives in the world, the general insisted on striking us. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Doctor, if the confrontation took place on 14 February last year, would it have cost the same as today's confrontation?
[Ja'ja'] One hundred percent and more. Certainly, certainly. I averted the confrontation that was going to take place on 14 February [1989]. I said perhaps there would be new developments sparing me such a confrontation. I postponed, postponed, and postponed because I knew what the outcome of such a confrontation would be. [passage omitted] Gen. 'Awn is a big criminal, a big criminal. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Do you maintain contacts with President al-Hirawi?
[Ja'ja'] No.

[Correspondent] I have heard that a group of high-ranking Lebanese Army officers are taking a neutral stand. Some sources have stated that these officers might apply certain pressure to make the general see reason. What is your information about this subject?
[Ja'ja'] As for making the general see reason—I advise them not to attempt such a thing. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Is there the possibility of an agreement between you and Gen. 'Awn?
[Ja'ja'] I hope so. I want an agreement. If Gen. 'Awn does not want an agreement and wants to continue his war, I will fight him.

[Correspondent] Yesterday, the general declared that he wants an agreement with the Lebanese Forces provided the people approve it.
[Ja'ja'] Provided what?

[Correspondent] Provided the people approve it.
[Ja'ja'] Look, really we have had enough of this nonsense. Who are the people? I can also assemble as many people as I want. On resistance day, 200,000 people attended the celebration. They also count, don't they? [passage ommitted] Shall we ask all the people in the

eastern area or hold demonstrations to see who can attract bigger crowds? Shall use a scale to see who has more people on his side? What is this logic, the logic of the 10th century BC, the logic of Idi Amin's Uganda? Look, in any case, all those who behaved in this way, from Hitler to Mussolini to Idi Amin, did not meet a good end. [passage omitted]

Have you heard of banana republics? Really, we have become a banana republic. This is a banana republic. The general wants the people to be the arbiter. By what criterion? I accept any criterion. Those in the Lebanese Forces whom you are killing—aren't they people? Since you want the people to be the arbiter, then this means every individiual has his rights. Aren't the 20,000 members of the Lebanese Forces people? Why do you want to kill them? There are 20,000 full members of the Lebanese Forces. Each one has a family. That is 100,000 people. Aren't they people? This is about 20 percent of the population of the eastern area. Don't these people have their rights in this society? Why are you killing them? What is this logic? [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Some local papers say that Ilyas al-Hirawi has been given a green light to intervene in the eastern areas. In case Ilyas al-Hirawi and Emile Lahhud's army intervene—obviously with Syrian support because they lack the means to intervene alone—under the cover of humanitarian assistance, what will be the attitude of the Lebanese Forces?
[Ja'ja'] We will not allow any foreign army to enter the eastern areas. We do not accept any foreign army. We have taken all measures to prevent anyone from entering the free areas along the fronts we are holding. We have paid a heavy price to establish the free areas. We are not ready to see them lose this freedom.

[Correspondent] Even if such intervention tips the scales in favor of the Lebanese Forces?
[Ja'ja', laughing] Do you think that we will bring in the Syrians to get rid of 'Awn? No, we will not do this. No matter what, this remains a Lebanese army and that a Syrian army. Michel 'Awn may have caused much more devastation than the Syrians, but still we do not accept such intervention.

[Correspondent] Even if Emile Lahhud's army enters without Syrian support?
[Ja'ja'] As far as we are concerned, this subject is not for discussion at present, neither with nor without the Syrians. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent, in English] Mr Ja'ja', you just have made a very, very strong attack on Gen. 'Awn, a very bitter attack. You called him a liar, you called him a criminal, you compared him with Hitler, Mussolini, and so on. Does this mean that the chances of reaching an understading between you and the general are zero?
[Ja'ja', in English] No, not necessarily. This is the truth or at least I myself judge Gen. 'Awn as such. From there on or from here on, well he is there and we should look for a normalization of the situation in the eastern areas.

[Correspondent, in English] On what basis are you willing to meet the terms that he has set—if not dissolve the militia—align yourself politically exactly in line with his views, [words indistinct] his process, and unify your guns with his under his leadership? Or are you sticking to your position of independence?
[Ja'ja', in English] No. On the contrary, I want to stick completely to our independence and to our [word indistinct] maneuver. Gen. 'Awn has his policy. We have a policy much older than his. We know exactly what we want. We have our strategy and our tactics. We cannot be squeezed by anyone and we should keep at least the minimum of the independence of our institutions. So we are not going to meet his conditions.

[Correspondent, in English] So what does this mean for the current lull that we are seeing on the ground? Does it mean that it is going to collapse sooner or later?
[Ja'ja', in English] Not necessarily, because I think the general does not have the capability, does not have the potential to continue this war that he has started on us.

[Correspondent, in English] How can you explain the fact that Gen. 'Awn still remains very popular among [words indstinct]?
[Ja'ja', in English] Hitler was very popular. Mussolini was very popular. The Marxist regimes were very popular. This is very relative. Gen. 'Awn is popular because he has been shutting down everyone. For one year the Lebanese citizen did not hear except Gen. 'Awn speaking on TV. Wait with me for two or three weeks, and you will see the popularity of Gen. 'Awn fading away.

[Correspondent, in English] Many people in the outside world find it astonishing and totally inexplicable that Christians are fighting Christians. They think it is [word indistinxct] illogical. Do you put any logic to it.
[Ja'Ja', in English] You have to ask Gen. 'Awn. Really, this is illogical, this is inconceivable. But Gen. 'Awn is mad. He has started this war. He is mad.

Al-Asad Makes Statement on Mandela's Release

JN1302114590 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0835 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Damascus, 13 Feb (SANA)—On the occasion of the release of Nelson Mandela, African National Congress leader, President Hafiz al-Asad made the following statement: We were pleased to hear about the release of Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader, after 27 years of imprisonment in the racist South African regime's jails. During that time he displayed an unyielding stance which genuinely reflects the stamina of the South African people in their struggle for freedom and for ending the racist regime which is alien to their country.

On behalf of the Syrian Arab people and myself, I congratulate the South African people, Winnie Mandela, wife and partner in struggle of struggler Nelson Mandela, and the African National Congress, which is leading the struggle of the South African people, on Mandela's release in order to continue the struggle with his people against the racist regime. I see this event as the confirmation of the inevitability of victory for those who defend their rights.

There is no doubt that Mandela's release is the outcome of the South African people's sacrifices and a victory for them that will be completed with the total liberation of their homeland from the racist regime.

Syria, which has always supported the struggle of the South African people, led the way in boycotting apartheid, condemned its practices, and always affirmed the close link between the Arab people's resistance of the racist Zionism with the South African people's resistance of apartheid, is looking forward to the day when this joint struggle will bear fruit, when the South African people will complete their happiness by abandoning apartheid, and the Palestinian people regain their national rights and liberate their occupied territories.

Prime Minister Receives Lebanese Trade Minister

JN1102193890 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received at 1300 today Dr. Nazih al-Bizri, Lebanon's economy and trade minister, and his delegation. Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, attended.

The meeting centered on the brotherly relations between Syria and Lebanon and steps taken toward national reconciliation in terms of building institutions and spreading security and stability throughout Lebanon.

The officials also reviewed coordination to improve economic cooperation in all fields and expand trade on the basis of the strong brotherly ties between the two fraternal countries.

Papers Examine Current Lebanese Situation

JN1202120090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 12 Feb 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Ending the Zionist Phenomenon Is a Pan-Arab Responsibility," AL-BA'TH says: Reports from the Lebanese capital say the legitimate government has adopted a series of measures to end the abnormal situation in East Beirut where fighting is still raging between the cliques of 'Awn and the militias of Ja'ja'. The legitimate government's measures came in the wake of frequent appeals from East Beirut on the need to save what can be saved and end the existing situation which threatens greater dangers. All Lebanese citizens have become certain that the 'Awn cliques and Ja'ja' militias pay no attention either to the homeland or the citizens.

AL-BA'TH adds: He who goes back a little will find that the East Beirut fighters are only interested in hegemony over that area which these rebellious forces are trying to separate from unified Lebanon in the service of the enemies of Lebanon and the Arab homeland.

AL-BA'TH says: Despite the efforts made by the legitimate government to find calm solutions to the rebellion in East Beirut, it has become obvious that the rebels are working toward a completely opposite objective. While the legitimate government is endeavoring to reunite the homeland, these rebellious forces, with big external support, are attempting to divide the homeland and turn the present situation into a fait accompli.

AL-BA'TH asserts that what is taking place in East Beirut is in fact part of a bigger plot aimed against Lebanon as well as our greater Arab homeland. The objective is to preoccupy the Arabs, particularly Syria, with the situation in Lebanon until Israel accomplishes its scheme aimed at Judaizing the occupied Arab territory.

AL-BA'TH calls on the Arab nation to work earnestly to confront the abnormal situation in East Beirut, and consequently, to confront the bigger Zionist danger that is trying to gradually devour the Arab homeland.

Under the headline "Two Faces of One Plot," TISHRIN says: The conflict between 'Awn and Ja'ja' is a personal conflict over power, tyranny, and hegemony. This conflict reveals that had it not been for these tools—despite the change of faces and names—Lebanon would not have been exposed to this situation. The likes of 'Awn, Ja'ja', [Sa'd] Haddad, and Lahd are the main cause of the Lebanese crisis.

TISHRIN adds: 'Awn and Ja'ja' are two faces of the same coin, both of whom emerged in their first confrontation last February. It has now become clear that they are not in different positions but involved in a challenge, competition, and race, and even a conflict over who is more qualified to accomplish the plot against Lebanon,

its Arabism, and unity. 'Awn believes that through destruction and fire he can accomplish the plot; and Ja'ja' believes that by reacting to destruction and fire with destruction and fire he will guarantee the success of the plot.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The destiny of the plot will be inevitable failure. And 'Awn and Ja'ja' will only harvest disappointment and downfall.

TISHRIN Analyzes East Beirut Fighting

JN1102214290 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 7 Feb 90 p 1

[Muhammad Khayr al-Wadi article: "Deception Backfires"]

[Text] The bloody fighting, which has been raging for eight years between 'Awn's clique and the Lebanese Forces, has not only pulverized the bones of East Beirut, but has also completely destroyed every political and theoretical concept used as a defense by 'Awn and the isolationists before him.

This war has undermined the principle of sectarianism, which has represented isolationist thought for the past half century. It also proved once again that the conflict in this Arab country was not sectarian or religious, although at times it adopted the guise of sectarianism. The conflict was no more than a political struggle to gain influence and dominate others.

The current bloodbath in East Beirut has proved the truth of the proposition that sectarianism has not only failed to solve Lebanon's problems, but it has also always been a source of problems and tension. It is like a hungry monster that devours everything and every one, including those who have created, raised, and nurtured it. These people thought they could tame and release the monster of sectarianism whenever they wished to bite the necks of those who opposed the isolationist and partitionist Zionist plot. What happened in Lebanon and events in East Beirut show that the deception has backfired and that sectarianism has begun to devour its creators.

The fighting in East Beirut has also destroyed the political and theoretical basis of partition, federation, and other ideas, whose advocates tried to prove that their ideas were the only solution to Lebanon's problems. Events also proved that attempts to partition Lebanon have increased the suffering of the Lebanese, prolonged their tragedy, and exposed this country's future and population to chaos. Partition advocates in East Beirut thought they had stability. Therefore, they built walls, mined and fortified their defenses around the area, and began to isolate it and sever all its ties with Lebanon. Their sick ideas also persuaded them that East Beirut—separated and isolated from the rest of Lebanon—had become the only oasis of security, stability, and prosperity in the country. This big lie had to be exposed by facts. This is now happening, because the fierce fighting in East Beirut has proved that partitionist entities are time bombs that will certainly go off and destroy everyone and everything. The war in East Beirut has undermined 'Awn's allegations, disrupted the false slogan of "national liberation" that he has hidden behind for the past 11 months, and showed the al-Yarzah general to be a rebel officer who has usurped authority over a part of Lebanon. Events have confirmed that 'Awn has never cared about Lebanon or the Lebanese, but has exploited Lebanon's energies and used all the weapons and money sent to him only to cling to power—even at the cost of destroying everything and everyone. What is happening in East Beirut has also proved that 'Awn's goal of liberation is to liberate Lebanon form its population, because this war has destroyed West Beirut and is destroying the eastern part of the Lebanese capital.

There is no doubt that the parties protecting 'Awn and promoting his plans in both the Arab and international arenas, and who describe him as "an obstinate struggler for freedom," will find it very difficult to maintain their position. The banners of freedom raised by this rebel have been burned in the flames of East Beirut, and the whole world firmly believes that 'Awn is no more than a rebel officer, who broke away from the authority and sold himself to the enemies of Lebanon.

Thus, the war in East Beirut has destroyed the basis of isolationist thought, exposed the danger and undermined the bases of political sectarianism, stripped all partition advocates of their pretexts, and proved that the national solution is the only way to save Lebanon. It has proved that Lebanon's unity is a barricade protecting it from its enemies inside and outside Lebanon, and that Lebanon's Arab affiliation and distinguished relations with Syria will provide strength, fortification, and survival for Lebanon.

It is well known that the legitimate Lebanese Government believes in these precepts. Therefore, it should be supported, the principles of national accord should be consolidated, and national welfare should take precedence over other issues. This is the only way to end the Lebanese crisis.

What is happening in East Beirut, despite its tragic nature, has strengthened the legitimate Lebanese Government in the eyes of the Lebanese, the Arabs, and the world and has also proved that it is the only authority that can continue to lead Lebanon toward peace, safety, stability, and prosperity.

Press Foresees 'Awn's Impending Downfall

JN1102131090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Legitimate Government's Decisive Act," AL-BA'TH says: Ten days of the bloodbath have passed in East Beirut, and the innocent

people are still paying the price of the conflict over power and preponderance with their lives and properties, let alone the state of terror which dominates their daily life in the shelters. As for the efforts which are being made by many sides to stop the war of madness and personal whims, they have not succeeded in proceeding toward what they at times called a decisive military action and at other times a political action, allowing the fire of the tyrants to continue, and with it the question continues: Where to, and until when? The answer was available before the 'Awn-Ja'ja' war; it lies with the conscience of the honest and loyal people of the homeland who have discarded partition beginning with Beirut, which was divided into East and West Beirut, and discarded the canton's maps, which the reckless officer was brandishing in service of the Zionists.

The answer before the ugly war was based on ending the aberrant situation by eliminating the state of rebellion, and subsequently restoring the captive part of East Beirut to liberated legitimacy, and to accord and brotherliness among all the sons of the one united homeland.

AL-BA'TH concludes: This answer is a real and practical indicator of the nearness of the hour of decisiveness; however, decisiveness will not be the one sought by 'Awn and Ja'ja'. In fact, the decisive act will join the efforts of the legitimate government with its sons in East Beirut—military men and civilians—to end the anomalous situation and spread sovereignty over all Lebanese soil, when the war of madness vanishes, the bloodbath stops, and warmongers fall forever.

TISHRIN comments on the same topic asserting in one of its comments that the reciprocal press campaigns along with the military escalation between 'Awn and Ja'ja' on the one hand, and the factions of the former and the militias of the latter on the other, reveal that what is taking place in East Beirut—by the confession of the two together—is a conflict where everyone wants to gain victory at the expense of the poor people and the killing and deportation of citizens, and the transformation of East Beirut into a feudal estate distributed between them in terms of privileges, gains and ambitions.

TISHRIN goes on to say: Therefore, the legitimate government has no choice but to work hard and decisively to wipe out the exceptional anomalous situation.

TISHRIN concludes: All evidence indicates that the legitimate government—represented by President Ilyas al-Hirawi, the government of national unity, and the legitimate national Lebanese Army, will find support and backing from every citizen in East Beirut to save them from the nightmare, inferno, and destruction, which hound them and dominate their lives.

AL-THAWRAH asserted in one of its comments today that 'Awn is not the only one who openly practices killing as an enemy of Lebanon and its people. In fact, we are about to say that all those who are still wagering on dialogue thus now stand revealed and exposed, showing their true nature as advocates of the fragmentation and partition of Lebanon through their persistence in holding on to an outlawed war criminal who practices killing and massacring against his people and homeland.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: The campaigns of killing, murder, and brutal devastation waged by the reckless rebel confirm that he wants to fight for the sake of his desire until the death of the last Lebanese soldier—who is weak and unable to escape the ranks of 'Awn's forces.

In conclusion, AL-THAWRAH says: If the legitimate government has made up its mind to spread the umbrella of al-Ta'if over all of Lebanon—a unified, one homeland—the way to the al-Ta'if's accord was and still is through the liquidation of this petty traitor.

Afghanistan

Resistance Feels 'Abandoned' by U.S.-Soviet Thaw

BK1202112690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1059 GMT 12 Feb 90

[By Rene Slama]

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Feb 12 (AFP)—A year after the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, mujahidin resistance guerrillas believe they have been abandoned by Washington for the sake of improved ties with Moscow.

Last week's Moscow meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was seen at the headquarters-in-exile of the mujahidin here as a signal of the new U.S. stand.

Ahmed Zia, of the Sunni Muslim Jamiat-e Eslami faction, said that regardless of Washington's continued "official" support for the resistance, it was a "very negative indication" that the United States no longer sought the immediate dismissal of Afghan President Najibullah, a former secret police chief, whom he dubbed a "criminal."

The U.S. position constituted "recognition of the Kabul communists" said the spokesman for Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, head of the Northern Council, a political and military organisation controlling large areas near the Soviet border.

A joint U.S.-Soviet communique released Saturday [10 February] following the Moscow meeting said "a transition period" was needed for a political settlement in Afghanistan, which the mujahidin take to mean that Mr. Najibullah can remain in power, for the moment, with Washington's blessing.

Ambassador Peter Tomsen, the U.S. envoy to the Afghan resistance, is expected here Monday [12 February] to brief mujahidin leaders on the Moscow meeting, Western diplomats said.

Fundamentalist guerrillas have talked for months of "betrayal" by Washington and other Western backers, who they say have encouraged the resistance struggle against Soviet occupation for 10 years but are now ready to join hands with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to prevent the establishment of an Islamic state in Afghanistan.

This has embittered mujahidin radicals and a man like Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the Hezb-e Eslami leader, could turn on the United States and become a threat "more dangerous than Hezbollah," the pro-Iranian Muslim fundamentalist group in Lebanon, according to Qaiser Butt, editor of the FRONTIER POST, a Pakistani daily.

Western diplomats say, in the words of one, that the Americans believe the Soviets "did not want to abandon Najibullah, without knowing what would happen then" because they feared a hostile government on their southern border, which could threaten stability in the neighbouring Soviet republics of Turkmeniya, Uzbekistan and Tadzhikistan.

The Moscow communique said: "The two sides had constructive discussions on the conditions for a political settlement in Afghanistan, including the need for a transition period that provides an intra-Afghan dialogue, self-determination to the Afghan people and the establishment of a broad-based government which would ensure the peaceful, independent and non-aligned status of Afghanistan."

Western diplomats said Washington had laid out a process for the establishment of a broad-based government in Kabul that provided for resistance-organised elections within the next few months, a move aimed at producing a more representative assembly than the one that elected the interim government-in-exile a year ago in Rawalpindi, Pakistan.

Washington, disappointed at the interim government's poor performance and permanent quarrelling, seeks more involvement from traditional tribal chiefs and commanders who remain in Afghanistan, the diplomats said.

The new guerrilla leadership produced by the elections could open talks with delegates from regions controlled by Kabul on the formation of a government with a broader base to which Mr. Najibullah would have to cede power, the diplomats said.

"Sooner or later Najibullah will have to leave," said a diplomat, while underlining the necessity for the resistance to remain strong and to "keep the military pressure on during this fighting season," which will begin after the spring thaw.

Najibullah Appoints Two New Senators to Assembly

LD1202125490 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, 12 Feb (BAKHTAR)—The presidential office reports that esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has appointed in separate decrees Meraboddin Paktiawal, son of Moqbel, and Abdol Fatah Najm, son of 'Ali Ahmad, as senators to the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan according to Paragraph 3 of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan.

National Front Central Council Chairman Replaced

LD1202163790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] A session of the Executive Board of the Central Council of the Afghan National Front [NF] was conducted today, chaired by Abdol Rahim Hatef, vice president of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The Executive Board discussed the NF C[entral Council] Secretariat proposal dealing with the r[esignation of] Abdol Rahim Hatef from the post of NF C[entral Council] chairman because of his state responsibili[ities.]

The board recalled with appreciation A[bdol Hatef's] work during his chairmanship and approved the proposal [unanimously].

Considering the need for extensive politica[l unity among] the forces who favor peace and recons[truction, and] observing the activity of the commission [appointed by] esteemed Najibullah regarding this, the Ex[ecutive Board] unanimously approved the NF Central C[ouncil Secre]tariat proposals on the draft of a platf[orm on unity] among the forces in favor of peace and re[construction.]

The Executive Board appointed Farid Ah[mad Mazdak,] board member, as acting chairman of th[e NF Central] Council.

Other organizational questions also were [discussed and] the necessary decisions were made.

Mining Contract Reportedly Signed W[ith USSR]

LD1202194190 Kabul Domestic Service in [Pashto]
1530 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Muhammad Eshaq Kawa, minister [of mines and] industries, and the Soviet embassy trade [counsellor in] Kabul signed a contract for the purchase [of necessary] tools and equipment for oil and gas exca[vation in the] north and for mines and geology surveys[. They signed] the contract this afternoon at the Ministry [of Mines and] Industries.

The documents were exchanged, and under [the contract,] the Soviet side will provide tools and e[quipment for] searching, drilling, and developing solid mi[nes, as well as] oil and gas mines at a total value of 35 [million rubles] from the state credit of that country.

USSR's Ryzhkov Greets Keshtmand Duri[ng Flight]

LD1202072890 Kabul BAKHTAR in Engli[sh]
0454 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 11 BAKHTAR—N[. Ryzhkov,] chairman of the Council of Ministers o[f the Soviet] Union, while his plane was overflying the [Afghan terri]tory sent a message to Sultan 'Ali Keshtma[nd, chairman] of the Executive Committee of the Council [of Ministers] of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan].

The message says: While crossing the airs[pace of your] country I want to express my sincere wis[hes for peace] and tranquillity of the people of the frie[ndly country,] Afghanistan, and hope that cooperation [and mutual] friendship existed between the two coun[tries, will be] further strengthened and developed in the [future.]

GDR Ambassador Announces Free Food Assistance

LD1202193890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Republic of Afghanistan Council of Ministers Executive Committee, met this morning at the Council of Ministers headquarters with His Excellency Dr. Horst Lindner, ambassador and representative plenipotentiary of the GDR.

During this meeting, His Excellency Dr. Horst Lindner gave information to the chairman on recent developments in his country. Also during this meeting, the GDR ambassador told the chairman about 64 tons of milk powder and eggs in free assistance from his country to the Republic of Afghanistan.

The chairman of the Council of Ministers thanked him for the economic assistance from the GDR to the Republic of Afghanistan.

Council of Ministers Discusses State Assistance

LD1102073690 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0445 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 10, BAKHTAR—To realise the decree No. 1367, February 5, 1990 of Najibullah president of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] on rendering necessary state assistance to the residents of the southwestern parts of the country an extensive session of the Council of Ministers presided over by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers was held at Council headquarters today, reported the Office for the Affairs of Local Organs of the Council of Ministers of the RA to BAKHTAR.

The session was attended by Amanuddin Amin and Muhammad Hakim, deputy prime ministers, ministers of heads of the related departments.

The session pointed out that, the Government of the RA in line with the national reconciliation policy and sense of responsibility vis-a-vis those of our compatriots who as a result of the imposed war and limitation of conditions for the carrying out of normal economic and productive activities and other negative factors are now faced with critical economic conditions, is dutified to provide and distribute necessary essential goods such as wheat, sugar, edible oil, medicines, blankets and other primary goods to children, women and elderlies residing in the Farah and Nimruz Provinces as state humanitarian assistance to them.

The session adopted a resolution which stressed on the increment of agricultural yields in that provinces.

The resolution says that sufficient amount of chemical fertilisers, improved sowing seeds and insecticides and pesticides be put at the disposal of farmers of that region's as well.

The resolution stated that, provision of goods included in the programme, mechanism of transportation and organisation of their distribution to the people must be made through the national reconciliation commissions comprising of representatives of the related organisations, armed extremist groups, social figures, clergies and intellectuals of the regions are charted out and special commissions have been dutified in this sphere.

Foreign Minister Leaves on Official India Visit

LD1202172290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Abdol Wakil left this afternoon for a friendly and official visit to India.

Solayman La'eq, member of the Politburo and secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee; a number of high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials; the charge d'affaires and a number of staff of the Indian Embassy in Kabul saw him off at Kabul International Airport.

Radio Rounds Up Military Situation in Provinces

LD1202161290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] The units and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in Khowst major district enjoy high combat morale and readiness and carry out their patriotic and national duties with high spirit.

Quoting an authoritative source in the Armed Forces, BAKHTAR'S military section reports that during the last four days, the armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis have been unable to resort to active combat operations due to pressure by the Armed Forces.

The warmongers have fired heavy weapons on the positions of the frontline units and companies and a number of security posts located around Khowst. In retaliation for these criminal and terroristic actions, their gun emplacements and hiding places were subjected to air and artillery attacks. As a result, 70 of the armed extremists supported by Pakistan were taken out of combat and an arms and ammunition depot, a launch system for BM-1, and a vehicle loaded with arms and ammunition were destroyed. Their fighting morale also has become very low. As a result of enemy fire, three Armed Forces personnel and five local people were martyred; four Armed Forces personnel were wounded.

The source added the units and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar Province have high combat ability and mainly are engaged in strengthening and equipping their positions and in military training and education.

The joint forces of the Pakistani militarists, the Saudi Wahhabis, and the armed extremists fired heavy weapons in the last four days on the (Samar Khel), Behsud, Kahan, and (Katerghai), and [word indistinct], and on 9 and 10 February they fired on a number of places in Jalalabad.

To foil these criminal and terroristic actions, their gun emplacements and positions were subjected to air and artillery strikes, taking 92 people from the joint forces of the enemy out of combat rank, including (Nesrat Muslim), a ringleader. Six arms and ammunition depots, six vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition, two systems for launching BM-1, and six mortars were destroyed.

As a result of enemy fire, three Armed Forces pesonnel and six local people were martyred and four Armed Forces personnel and 11 local people were wounded. Four houses and two shops were destroyed.

According to the same source, a number of units and companies stationed in Qandahar have carried out mopping up operations in Dasayan region. The armed extremists, the Saudi Wahhabis, and the Pakistani militarists fired on a number of security posts and on the Sarpoza garrison in Qandahar, as well as on defense lines of the units and companies. In retaliation for these attacks, the gun emplacements and positions of the warmongerers were subjected to air and artillery attacks.

The report adds as a result of fire by the units and companies during the last four days, 101 warmongers were taken out of combat. Four rocket launchers, six mortars, three recoilless guns, four rocket launchers [as heard], seven arms, ammunition, and foodstuff depots, six machine guns, and a tractor carrying rocket projectiles also were destroyed and one recoilless gun, a mortar, a ZK-1, a machinegun, and a food depot were seized.

As a result of fire by the extremists supported by Pakistan, five Armed Forces pesonnel were martyred and three were wounded; five local people also were wounded.

The units and companies of the Armed Forces in Qandahar Province carry out their duties with high combat morale.

India

Indian, Pakistani Troops Exchange Fire in Kashmir

BK1202144190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1416 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Feb 12 (AFP)—Indian and Pakistani troops traded gunfire on Kashmir's border after the Indian Army shot dead eight Pakistani civilians who crossed into India illegally, army sources said Monday [12 February]. The clash between the two armies late Sunday lasted some 30 minutes at Kashmir's Uri sector, but no one was wounded, the sources were reported by the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) as saying.

The Pakistani Army reportedly fired more than 200 rounds from light and medium weapons on Indian forward positions, sparking off the clash, the first of its kind in the disputed region in weeks. PTI said that the Pakistani attack was concentrated on Indian Army posts located on the old Jhelum Valley road near the line of control that divides the Indian- and Pakistani-held Kashmir.

An intelligence official and another person were killed meanwhile when Moslem militants exchanged fire with security forces during a curfew relaxation in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital, officials said.

A police station at Achabel, a tourist center in the Kashmir Valley, was damaged when suspected Moslem militants threw a powerful bomb at it, officials said. Outside the Dal Lake area, one of the top attractions for foreign tourists in Kashmir, militants burnt a restaurant, the officials said.

The army border clashes erupted shortly after Indian troops fired at a Pakistani crowd which crossed into India's Jammu and Kashmir State at Uri district and tried to hoist a Pakistani flag on Indian territory. The slogan-chanting crowd was reportedly several hundred strong, though not all entered into India.

Indian defence sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in Srinagar earlier Monday that eight Pakistanis were killed and five others injured in the shooting which succeeded in breaking up the crowd. The Pakistanis were reportedly commemorating the sixth anniversary of the execution of a Kashmiri separatist leader in India whose followers are fighting to have Jammu and Kashmir State secede from India.

News reports in Islamabad said three Pakistanis were killed and another 17 were "missing" and believed to have been killed or captured by the Indians after the earlier incident. Six other Pakistanis were reportedly in critical condition.

PTI said the Pakistanis tried to enter Kashmir from "a highly mountainous and sparsely populated area," indicating it was an "organised" attempt. [passage onitted]

'No One' Killed, Injured

BK1202156690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1541 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] There has been an incident of firing by Pakistani troops at Indian positions in the Uri sector. The incident occurred last night after the Indian security forces foiled an attempt by a crowd from Pakistan side to cross the line of actual control into the Indian territory. The Indian troops returned the fire. No one was injured or killed.

Protest Lodged With Pakistan Over Border Crossing

BK1202145590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] India today gave Pakistan updated detailed documentary evidence of its involvement in subversive activities in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir and lodged a strong protest at the continued border crossing by Pakistan nationals, the recent being in the Uri sector yesterday.

The Pakistan high commissioner, Mr. Bashir Babar, was called to the Foreign Office twice last night and this morning to convey India's concern over the dangers involved in such attempts. The foreign secretary, Mr. S.K. Singh, told the Pakistan high commissioner that such provocative attempts will serve no real purpose.

Ever since the Pakistan foreign minister, Mr. Yaqub Khan, visited New Delhi in January, India had been cautioning Islamabad about the dangers inherent in inciting people and inflaming passions.

The high commissioner's attention was drawn to the seriousness with which New Delhi viewed the emerging pattern of the incitement followed by rash and dangerous action at the Indo-Pakistan border.

The documents of evidence given to the Pakistan high commissioner this morning include maps showing about 46 training camps in Pakistan to train and equip the terrorists in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry, who released the evidence to newsmen in New Delhi this evening, said the foreign secretary also drew the attention of the high commissioner to the regrettable proclivity to exaggerate such incidents in Pakistan. Reports emanating from Pakistan also show the elements of inaccuracy in such reports.

'Deep Concern' Voiced to Pakistan

BK1202161890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Excerpts] India today gave Pakistan updated detailed documentary evidence of its involvement in subversive activities in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir and lodged a strong protest at the continued border crossing by Pak nationals, the recent being in the Uri sector yesterday. The Pakistan high commissioner, Mr. Bashir Babar, was called to the Foreign Office twice last night and this morning to convey India's concern over the dangers involved in such attempts. [passage omitted]

The Pak high commissioner was told to convey to the Government of Pakistan India's deep concern at the continuing border crossings and also to remind Islamabad of India's oft-repeated urgings to adhere to the path of peace as enshrined in the Simla Agreement.

The External Affairs Ministry spokesman also said that the security forces in India have seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition from the terrorists trained on the Pak soil.

The Indian high commissioner in Islamabad, Mr. J.N. Dixit, has also asked the Pakistan Government to take steps to prevent further border crossings.

11 Feb Statement on Pakistani 'Interference'

BK1302104990 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0915 GMT 13 Feb 90

["Official spokesman's statement on Pakistan" dated 11 February 1990]

[Text] We have seen newspaper reports of Prime Minister [PM] Benazir Bhutto's statement of 10th Feb on Jammu and Kashmir. PM Bhutto's statement and resolution moved in joint session of the Pakistani Parliament by Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan, constitute unacceptable interference in internal affairs of India. The Pakistani Government had alleged that the Government of India had not any [words indistinct] proof of Pakistani involvement. We wish to reiterate that enough evidence has been furnished to the Pakistani Government. And to other governments, to prove conclusively, that terrorist elements are operating from the territory of Pakistan.

When Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan was here last month, the Indian external affairs minister, Shri I.K. Gujral, had informed his Pakistani colleague of the threat of Mr. Amanullah Khan, leader of so-called 'Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front', to send 10,000 commandos, across [words indistinct] foreign minister that this and other such hyperbolic rhetoric was bound to inflame passions and to prompt hotheads and other elements in Pakistan to undertake rash and dangerous missions. Events of Monday, the 5th February, have proved that our forebodings were well founded.

We propose to furnish further evidence to Pakistan [word indistinct], about nefarious designs of anti-Indian forces operating from the Pakistani soil.

While resisting our firm resolve to repulse any untoward and unwarranted incursions into our sovereign territory, we would once again urge the Government of Pakistan to adopt the path of peace as envisaged in the Simla Agreement and to desist from provocative actions.

We would caution them that, any attempt to dilute or to unpackage the Simla agreement, might lead to situations that neither of the two countries would wish. We are encouraged to note that PM Benazir Bhutto had advised her own people against the folly of using "unwise acts and words". We wish the government of Pakistan would translate this advice into its own action on the ground. All statements and actions of the Government of India in recent weeks betoken its firm desire and earnest resolve to usher in an era of cooperation and friendship in the South Asian region. We would urge the government of Pakistan to respond positively to our stated resolve and to shed old [word indistinct] and worn-out cliches, which are designed to perpetuate and exacerbate complications and which are out of tune with global efforts to remove the term "war" from the vocabulary of civilized international intercourse.

Question: Would you be giving the Pakistani Government "fresh" evidence?

Spokesman: Yes, earlier evidence plus fresh evidence.

Question: Is your statement a response to certain portions of PM Benazir Bhutto's statement?

Spokesman: No. We have responded to both Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's statement and to the Pakistani Parliament resolution in entirety.

Political Leaders Warn Pakistan About Kashmir

BK0902161090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Leaders of various political parties have warned Pakistan against arming and training terrorists operating in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. At a meeting in Amritsar today, they said the Pakistan Government is instigating its people against India and trying to whip up a war hysteria. Those who addressed the meeting included the leaders of the CPI [Communist Party of India], BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], Congress-I, and Janata Dal.

Several prominent Muslim leaders, politicians, and intellectuals of the country have warned Pakistan that any external or internal threat to India's unity and territorial integrity will not be tolerated. They have also appealed to Islamabad to honor the Simla Agreement and to create an atmosphere of mutual goodwill and understanding. Pakistani politicians, they said, should not impose their power struggle and clash of interests on India.

About 30 of them met the Pakistan high commissioner today in a delegation in New Delhi and presented a memorandum in which they said millions of people in both countries believe in peaceful coexistence. The signatories to the memorandum include Professor A.R. Kidwai, chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University; Dr. Syed Zahoor Qasim, vice chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia; Mr. Rashid Masud, MP [member of Parliament], general secretary, Janata Dal; Professor Wahiduddin Malik, vice chancellor, Allahabad University; Mr. Javed Habib, general secretary, Muslim Youth Convention; Mr. M. Afzal, editor, AKHBAR-I-NAW; Mr. Shahid Siddiqui, editor, Urdu weekly NAI DUNIYA; Mr. Nazir Ahmed Siddiqui, former minister, Karnataka government; and Mr. Masud Hussain Khan, former minister, Uttar Pradesh government.

Politicians Demand Parliament Debate on Kashmir

BK0902155890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Five National Conference members of Parliament today demanded immediate holding of a special session of both houses of Parliament to discuss the situation in Kashmir. In a statement in New Delhi, they described the situation in the state as grim and explosive. The members alleged that the center has not taken any steps to assuage the hurt feelings of the people of Kashmir. They also accused the state governor of censoring news about the state.

A delegation of about 30 prominent Muslim leaders met the Pakistan high commissioner in New Delhi and presented a memorandum appealing to Pakistani politicians to honor the Simla Agreement and create an atmosphere of goodwill and understanding.

BJP Workers Demonstrate Outside Pakistani Mission

BK1202125890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Thousands of Bharatiya Janata Party workers held a demonstration outside the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi today protesting against Islamabad's continuous intervention and infiltration in Kashmir Valley and Punjab. The demonstration was led by Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and Mr. Madan Lal Khurana. A memorandum was also presented to the high commission officials.

Situation 'By and Large Peaceful'

BK1202163290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, barring two minor incidents of cross firing and an explosion on a bus, the situation remained by and large peaceful. Day curfew in Srinagar and almost all other towns was lifted. Government offices and business establishments functioned as usual and transports plied normally. In the cross firing in downtown Srinagar City, one civilian was injured, who later succumbed to his injuries in the hospital.

The governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, condemned the killing of an intelligence bureau official by the subversives in Srinagar.

An official spokesman in New Delhi today again emphatically denied that there were restrictions of any type on the local press. He also denied that any armed guards have been posted at printing presses.

The prime minister has assured the people of Jammu and Kashmir that they will be given full protection and the lawless elements will be dealt with firmly. Mr. V.P. Singh gave this assurance in a letter to Professor Saifudding Soz, leader of the National Conference parliamentary party. Professor Soz had written to the prime minister, drawing his attention to the killings of innocent people in the valley.

Kashmir Governor Says No Restrictions on Press

BK1002160590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr. Jagmohan, has said that there are no restrictions or ban on the local or national press in the state. He said in Srinagar today that journalists of all national newspapers and agencies are working in the valley. Besides, Indian reporters of foreign agencies like the ASSOCIATED PRESS and REUTER are also in Kashmir. No restrictions have been placed on them. The governor has invited leading journalists of the national press to the valley to see things for themselves.

Meanwhile, the situation in the Kashmir Valley remained peaceful today, barring two minor blasts and stray incidents of fire in Srinagar. The state authorities have tightened security to prevent any attempt by the subversives to create violence.

The Congress-I, in a letter to the president, has criticized the handling of the Kashmir situation by the union home minister. In a memorandum it said the situation is worsening day by day.

The Janata Dal leader, Mr. Surendra Mohan, and two Muslim leaders, Mr. Fazlur Bari and Mr. Javed Habib, alleged in a statement in New Delhi that the Congress-I and Dr. Farooq Abdullah's government were responsible for the situation in Kashmir.

All-Party Meeting Expresses Concern Over Punjab

BK0902133190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Speakers at the all-party meeting in Chandigarh today expressed concern over the continuing killings, extortion of money, and other terrorist activities in Punjab. Members of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], the Congress-I, the Janata Dal, Akali Dal-Barnala, and the CPI [Communist Party of India] attended the meeting. The meeting decided to call on the union home minister soon and apprise him of the prevailing situation in the state. It appreciated the steps taken by the center so far to improve the situation. The speakers felt that the initiatives should be continued despite the fact that these have not been properly responded to by the extremists.

12 Killed in Violence, Explosions in Punjab

BK1202090090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] In Punjab, 12 persons, including two policemen and one terrorist, were killed in separate incidents last night.

According to an official spokesman, five persons were shot dead by terrorists in village Karmuwal in Harike area of Amritsar District.

In two other incidents in Amritsar District, terrorists shot dead one person in Baba Bakala town and one in village Jalowal in Beas area.

In Jullundur District, one inspector and an assistant subinspector were killed in a bomb explosion in their room in police training center, Kilor.

In a bomb explosion in Patiala District, over one meter of railway track was damaged between Chitanwali and Kaucheri early this morning.

Meanwhile, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] general secretary, Mr. Krishna Lal Sharma, has called for the review of the center's policy on Punjab. Addressing a news conference in Bhatinda yesterday, Mr. Sharma demanded strong measures to protect the life and property of the people. He also reiterated his party's demand to create a security belt on the Indo-Pakistan border in both Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab to prevent infiltration.

Amritsar Police Post Attacked

BK1202071290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] In Punjab, six persons were killed in two different incidents of terrorist violence in Amritsar District last night. Five persons were shot dead in village Karmuwal under the Tarn Taran police station, and one person was killed in village Baba Bakala under the Majitha police station.

Terrorists also attacked a police post in village Morgimpu in Amritsar District. The police returned the fire, and the terrorists ran away.

Iran

Editorial on New U.S. 'Plot' Against Republic

NC0902113990 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 5 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Efforts To Undermine Resolution 598 Aggravate the Crisis"]

[Text] It seems, and some informed sources are certain, that the United States is brooding over a new plot against the Islamic Republic at the Security Council.

This newly-tailored White House conspiracy concerns the vital issue of peace and security in this very sensitive part of the world.

According to these sources the U.S., apparently backed by some other Security Council members, is seriously trying to undermine the United Nations' sponsored peace Resolution 598 through calling for the release of Iraqi and Iranian POWs [prisoners of war] with no reference to the resolution. This time too the so-called champion of democracy is harnessing the issue of "humanitarian ground" of the issue as pretext for its proposal.

No one however is opposed to humanitarian moves and considerations. But what can ever possibly be more humanitarian than going for the uprooting of causes of war through establishing a stable peace using the U.N. as the sponsoring agency?

If the POWs are freed by conditions out of the provisions and context of Resolution 598, the latter will lose all its validity. This will inevitably lead to the perpetuating of the Iraq-Iran crisis. The result will be only an "armed peace" and a half-hearted ceasefire in a potentially very explosive situation. Such a situation is of course fertile ground for opportunistic moves and policies in the region by big powers.

Another major drawback of any settlement out of the framework of Resolution 598 is the fact that after the POWs' release, occupied Iranian lands will still remain under Iraqi seizure. Baghdad will use the troops pullback to internationally-recognized borders as an issue to blackmail Iran.

In that case the U.S. and Britain will certainly exploit the whole episode as their winning card to settle political scores with Iran.

As far as the implementation of the Resolution 598 is concerned, regrettably not much has been achieved as yet. Many countries have voiced support for the U.N. peace resolution but to no avail. Of all its articles and notes only a mere half of the first article concerning the effecting of a truce between the two sides has been realized. In fact Iraq has stubbornly refused to withdraw its forces from Iranian territories mainly because of the support it has received from some governments to continue bullying policies.

As things stand at present it may be predicted that the United States and its allies will launch a dump-Resolution-598 campaign to block Iran's peace efforts. They will try to impose on Iran solutions which will only devaluate the U.N. resolution.

But even the release of the POWs out of the context provided by Resolution 598 too will be fraught with difficulties. Iraq has registered only one-third of the over 50,000 Iranian POWs it holds. Besides, Iraq has not yet agreed to the relese of disabled POWs in a way to make such a move a practical possibility. Even the Red Cross International has not been able to solve the issue of the number of Iranian POWs in Iraq and facilitate practical framework for the release of the disabled POWs.

As such this new U.S. design to dictate solutions out of the Resolution 598's context will only complicate things leaving too many war-related issues unresolved.

Further on Ceremonies for Marking Revolution

Ahmad Khomeyni Meets Guests

LD1002115790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign guests participating in the ceremonies marking the days of God, the 10 Days of Dawn, this morning presented themselves at the Jamaran mosque and met with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni. They were saddened on viewing the empty seat of Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise.

After introducing those present at the mosque, Mr Ahtabi presented a report on the programs for the guests during the 10 Days of Dawn. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni then thanked the foreign guests and the artists participating in the Fajr theater festival. He said: Today you have enterd a mosque where the imam's seat is empty for the first time on this occasion, but you can still follow the imam's goals and ideals. He added: Within the past two or three years, the imam used to discuss the fundamental issues of his ideology whenever the occasion arose. I call on the experts of the Islamic sciences, seminaries, universities, and the Council of Guardians, who themselves implement the imam's views and the totality of the system, to refer to the imam's speeches and writings to explain and interpret the issues raised by him and make them available to those who seek the imam's ideology today.

He said the imam's ideologies are considered unalterable, fundamental issues of the revolution and Islam today, and the enemies of the revolution will not spare any effort to distort the imam's ideologies.

In conclusion, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni explained the imam's teachings on public assets, taxes, internal trade, ownership and its limits, money, currency, music, and the hejab. He asked the officials in charge of cultural issues to explain and teach those ideologies in the universities and make them available to the friends of the imam of the ummah and to those who believe in him.

Karrubi Praises Martyrs, Families

LD1002022290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Majles Speaker Mr. Karrubi, who is also the representative of the leader at the Foundation of the Martyrs of the Islamic revolution, honored the memory of the late imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise, in remarks at ceremonies for the martyrs at the Behesht-e Zahra cemetery. Referring to the imam at a time when ceremonies for the revolution's victory are being conducted without him, he said: His holiness the imam had a special love for the families of the martyrs. The kindness and appreciation he had for the families of the martyrs cannot be forgotten.

Praising the self-sacrifices of the martyrs' families, the Majles speaker said the massive presence of the strata of people at the 11 February marches the first year when the sacred body of his holiness imam is not among us will be regarded as the declaration of allegiance to the imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise, as well as renewal of pledges of bond with the great leader. For that reason the Iranian nation once again must prove to the world, through their massive participation in the marches of 11 February, that they are ready to make sacrifices for continuing the revolution.

Ceremony Held at Khomeyni Grave

LD1102015190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] A morning parade by various sections of the armed forces was held today at the holy shrine of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni, may his noble soul be sanctified. Our reporter sent the following report on these ceremonies:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] These ceremonies were attended by the ministers of interior, defense and support of the Armed Forces, the chief of the Armed Forces joint staff, the representatives of supreme jurisconsult in the Armed Forces, commanders and model units of the three Armed Forces, Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, police, revolution committees, and the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran. After the recitation of some verses from the holy Koran, the special program of a morning parade was carried out.

Mr Movahhedi-Kermani, the head of the ideological-religious office of the Armed Forces General Command, spoke. He announced the renewal of the covenant of the Armed Forces with Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise. He renewed their congratulations and allegiance to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran. At the end of these ceremonies, the Unity unit [as heard] laid wreaths on the pure grave of the imam. [end recording]

Karrubi on Revolution Committees

LD1202180190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] On the occasion of the passage of 12 years since the formation of the first Islamic Revolution Committee [IRC], ceremonies were held this afternoon in Tehran's Martyr Montazeri complex, attended by Majles Speaker Mr Karrubi, IRC commanders, and a group of military and civil officials.

In those ceremonies, the Majles speaker made some remarks, pointing to the interrelations between the Islamic revolution and its institutions, saying: The Islamic revolution needs institutions which can manage the society and serve the revolution. His holiness the

imam, with his precise vision and in
edge about society and the revolution,
of establishing institutions quickly
tionary manner. The first institution
February 1979 was the Islamic Revo
The Majles speaker continued his rem
support given by his holiness the im
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consolidation, and the institutions nu
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He further considered the performanc
the last 11 years in confronting grou
cotics, and religiously forbidden act
their involvement in the sacred defe
cessful. He said: The IRC and other
remember that they have grave res
what they do is for the sake of God,
imam, and the Islamic society. The
know that they carry the message of the
so they must comply with the Islamic
their encounters with people.

ce of IRC's during
ps, terrorism, nar-
s [monkarat], and
fense, as very suc-
institutions must
sponsibilities, and
the revolution, the
IRC guards must
e blood of martyrs,
code of behavior in

Karrubi: Unity Means 'V

Victory'

*LD1202075390 Tehran IRNA in Engli
12 Feb 90*

lish 0735 GMT

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 12, IRNA—Majl
ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi Sunday said
with factors involved in the victor
revolution in Iran could be a pattern f
mankind, particularly Muslims, from
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Speaking at the concluding session of t
ceremonies marking the 11th annivers
of the Islamic revolution Sunday,
foreign guests that unity between the
people in Iran was the most effe
achieving the victory.

the Ten-Day Dawn
rsary of the victory
Karrubi told the
leadership and the
ective means for

This same factor, he stressed, put an
regime's political, economic and milit
overall support of its patrons, mainly t
reactionary governments in the region

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the U.S. and lackey
on.

Referring to characteristics of the lea
revolution the late Imam Khomeyni,
said that through his immediate reco
plots, the late imam would take a d
inform public opinion.

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the Majles speaker
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decisive stand and

Foreign guests of the Ten-Day D
inspected a number of industrial un
paid homage to Imam Reza's (AS) [p
holy shrine in Mashhad, northeastern
rasan. They also toured historical si
province of Esfahan including Jame
church.

Dawn ceremonies
nits in Tehran and
peace be upon him]
n province of Kho-
sites in the central
mosque and Jolfa

The guests also took part in three cul
political round-table discussions a
Khomeyni's thoughts and viewpoints

ultural, judicial and
and studied Imam
ts.

They were also guests of honor at separate receptions held by Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi and Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami.

Kho'iniha Urges Joint Islamic Front

NC0902180390 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Kho'iniha, director of the Islamic Republic of Iran Strategic Research Center, has said that the United States, the Eastern bloc, and the other satanic forces intend to crush the Islamic movements more than ever before. He also noted that a joint Islamic front has to be established against the united world of blasphemy.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the anniversary of the 10 Days of Dawn at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Islamabad yesterday, Hojjat-ol-Eslam Kho'iniha said that all Muslims felt the need for the reactivation of Islam and for a mass movement right now.

Recalling Imam Khomeyni's death, Kho'iniha asserted: Many enemies planned for a resistance after the imam. As for the friends, they believed that life without the Imam was impossible. However, they have seen that through the imam's foresight, he resolved the question of leadership. They have also seen that the jurisconsults [fakihler] of the people have taken up this matter appropriately. The enemies were disheartened and the friends were inspired with hope.

Majles Speaker Addresses Gendarmerie Ceremony

LD0602125190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] An oath-taking ceremony for over 300 second-term cadets of the Military Sciences Academy of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Gendarmerie, was held today in the presence of Mr Karrubi, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly at the 22d Bahman Base. Our correspondent Ahmadzadeh reports:

[Begin Ahmadzadeh recording] These ceremonies were also attended by Mr. Ashtiani, representative of the supreme jurisconsult in the Gendarmerie; Brigadier General Sohrabi, commander of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran; the deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution Committee of Iran; commanders; and the esteemed families of the martyrs, POW's, and those missing in action of the Gendarmerie. A representative of the cadets received a badge from the Majles speaker, Mr. Karrubi.

The speaker said: The world is a testing place and the Iranian nation has been able to get through this test successfully. He added: The Islamic revolution and the imposed war and events that took place in the course of the past 11 years were a great test for all the people, especially for the Armed Forces, and it was the people who responded to the call of their leader—His Holiness

Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified—and struggled for the realization of God's rule, defeating all the plots of the enemies of Islam and revolution; and this was a blessing for us.

Continuing, Mr Karrubi referred to the point that the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran led by His Holiness Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be sanctified—endangered U.S. interests in Iran and in the region, and added: From the start of the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran, the United States tried to destroy the newly-formed Islamic system in various ways. Fortunately, however, thanks to the alertness of a leader such as the imam and the awareness of an ummah such as the nation of Iran, these plots were neutralized one after another to the extent that nowadays, the movement of Islamic forces is seen everywhere, such as in oppressed Lebanon and Palestine.

In conclusion, the speaker of the Majles pointed to the fact that today too, our Armed Forces carry a heavy burden and should remain alert and awake to foil the plots of the enemy. He thanked them for their services, especially those rendered by the Gendarmerie.

After the speaker's address, the forces stationed in the base paraded past the Koran..

*Montazeri: Khamene'i Lacks Qualifications

90OI0159A London KEYHAN in Persian 1 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] A report from Tehran states that Ayatollah Montazeri's recent controversial remarks rejecting Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i's qualifications as chief theologian rest on two points. According to this report, in a talk given to his supporters who had come to visit him on the occasion of the death anniversary of Her Holiness Fatemeh Zahra, Montazeri said that first of all Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i does not have the academic and theological qualifications to be chief theologian, and secondly, due to his disreputable past, he does not have the credibility necessary to be selected as chief theologian to lead the Muslims. To date none of the media or newspapers in the Islamic Republic has published anything about Ayatollah Montazeri's recent remarks, which caused an uproar and led to his temporary arrest.

Although things were said and written about Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i's competence as chief theologian when he first received the title "Ayatollah" that raised doubts about his theological competence in general in light of his lack of seminary background, as yet nothing has been discussed officially about his lack of moral credentials and about his past.

Ayatollah Montazeri's mention of Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i's lack of ethical competence apparently goes back to his life in Mashhad, for there was an unfavorable image of him in Mashhad. According to the report, few people in Mashhad respect Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, and there have been rumors everywhere about his moral issues.

The same report says that perhaps if Ayatollah Montazeri had spoken only of Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i's lack of qualifications to serve as chief theologian he might not have been temporarily arrested, but it was the rejection of Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i's moral competence that suddenly produced a sharp reaction and even threatened Montazeri's life.

According to this report, were it not for the regime's fear of the special international conditions, Ayatollah Montazeri's life would have been seriously endangered, but the regime's fear of a reaction from Ayatollah Montazeri's supporters in this receptive international climate kept it from taking more severe measures against Ayatollah Montazeri.

It is also written in the report that the matter of the murder of Ayatollah Sa'idi in prison (before the revolution) was also the reason that the son of Ayatollah Sa'di is now a Majles deputy and plays an active role in organizing the demonstrations of Friday and Saturday [5 and 6 January].

The regime has always claimed that Ayatollah Sa'idi was killed (martyred) while being tortured by SAVAK in prison, but Ayatollah Montazeri has criticized calling Ayatollah Sa'idi a martyr, and has said that he himself was in prison with Ayatollah Sa'idi (at the time of his death) and that he was neither being harassed nor tortured at the time of his death, that instead he died of illness in prison.

In his talk, Ayatollah Montazeri discussed the general accomplishments of the Islamic Republic, especially the matter of borrowing in the Five-Year Plan. He opposes that device and says that this plan was approved by the Majles deputies under pressure and under extraordinary circumstances.

With the clarification of the issues Ayatollah Montazeri has raised concerning Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, it is now clear that the reason for all the insistence on collecting telegrams and letters of support for the position of "chief theologian" was due to Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i's discomfort at Ayatollah Montazeri's revelations, not only concerning his theological and scholarly competence, but also concerning his moral competence.

Editorial Views Growth of Islamic Movement

NC0702175590 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 30 Jan 90 pp 1, 9

[Editorial: "The World on the Threshold of the Sovereignty of Religion"]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Islamic movements are gradually but extensively sweeping the Islamic world. The contemporary world is witnessing some very interesting phenomena, the most important of which is the powerful leaning of Muslims toward Islam.

The world is in the throes of massive upheavals, but the yearning of nations for profound changes in the Islamic world is more striking than all other developments. Not even one policy-making center in the East or the West expected such fundamental and profound changes and it is for this reason that they were caught off guard.

The West had always assumed that it had only one rival worth considering: the Eastern bloc. This was the reason for the insistence on the polarization of the world into two systems in past decades. With this split into capitalistic and socialistic blocs, it was assumed that these two blocs would be able to determine the destiny of the world.

Now that the Eastern bloc is in a state of volatility and change and communist systems are faced with disintegration and decline, the West is striving to portray these developments as a victory for the capitalistic bloc and attempting to project the image of a world moving toward a single system. However, this is not the case and never will be.

The storm that has shaken the Marxist foundations of the Zahedov [as published] government will not stop here. All signs indicate that the West will also face violent storms in another form, which will be the result of the popular movement of nations.

Even though the West has attempted to portray itself as an opponent of communism, history shows that Marxist thought is a Western product. In fact, the defeat of communism is a major defeat for the West and for the concept of materialism which was nurtured there.

If the Communist East was unsuccessful in its attempts to "eliminate religion," then the West has an equally black record for its constant efforts to "deface religion," efforts which are doomed to failure and defeat. The present century is the century of the awakening of nations. In the 18th and 19th centuries, colonialism sought to perpetuate its domination over nations by all means, and since it recognized religion as the only impediment to these plans and the only factor which could lead to the awakening of nations, it embarked on a widespread destruction and distortion of religion.

These two centuries witnessed the antipopulist efforts of the colonialists and in fact can be seen as a campaign against religion by satanic powers. History bears witness to the fact that as soon as the colonialists set foot in any country, efforts to destroy or eliminate religion began in an organized and serious way.

World arrogance did not anticipate that, after two centuries of their multilateral efforts to obliterate religion, it would suddenly witness the emergence of religious fervor among nations. It did not expect that the concerted efforts of colonialism and its renegade organizations to produce generations totally indifferent to religion would be scattered on the winds in this way and youths who had been educated at universities would display such a thirst and inclination for religion. If this phenomenon is not tantamount to a defeat for the West, then what else can it mean? If this greatest phenomenon of the century is not the greatest manifestation of the absolute defeat of all the black misdeeds of Western colonialism over two centuries, then what other justification or interpretation can be given to it?

The West professes to be the champion of freedom and human rights. The world charter on human rights mentions the freedom of religion and belief, but the West's attitude toward Islam contradicts this. It has called its campaign against the extensive pro-Islamic wave its "top priority." This is the West's declaration of defeat, failure, and total humiliation before Islam.

What is the root of these large-scale and astonishing developments, of the greatest phenomenon of the century? Friends and foes alike point to Iran and our dear imam (may God's blessings be upon him) is considered the pioneer and trailblazer of this worldwide movement. It is a source of pride that we are living at such a time and have breathed the rejuvenating air of this revolution. Ruhollah Khomeyni infused a new spirit into the wilting lives of the contemporary world. He was the one who instilled a new spirit, hope, and determination in us, taught us self-reliance, and enabled us to put a halt to two centuries of the colonialists' unholy efforts to wipe out religion. It was he who loudly proclaimed the message of Islam and conveyed the glad tidings of the glory of Islam and its sway over the world to the withered hearts of its followers, who had witnessed firsthand the decline of values during the years of the black rule of the corrupt rulers.

If only he were here today and could see this astonishing scenario himself. If only he could see how the eyes of the world are riveted on Iran and how all Muslims look to Iran with reverence and esteem as the base of the world's Islamic movement. This revolution was a massive cultural revolution and we saw how its message crossed geographical boundaries and touched the lives of human beings who were thirsting for truth and rejuvenated them.

With their ailing minds, the analysts of the East and the West had imagined that the revolution would be exported by force of arms. Now they have seen with their own eyes that hearts brimming with hope are leaning toward us without any weapons being used. This is something that enemies of Islam cannot tolerate even for a moment but, whatever their wishes, the will of God is on the side of the continuation and growth of this movement.

Mohtashemi Cited on Anti-Islamic 'Plots'

NC0902195290 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 4 Feb 90 p 3

[Excerpts] A roundtable "to assess cultural plots by world arrogance against Islam" was held last night with

the participation of four prominent personalities and Islamic writers at the Laleh Hotel in Tehran. [passage omitted]

Hojjat ol-Eslam Abtahi, the deputy minister of international affairs in the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, said: We dealt a fatal blow to the enemies of Islam over the Salman Rushdie issue and like a wounded snake they are hatching new plots every moment and thinking up new ways to deal a blow to our revolution. Therefore, we should strive for the unity of Islam more than ever before and consider various and serious strategies to combat the conspiracies of world arrogance.

Continuing the roundtable discussion, Mrs Zahra Rahnavard discussed how to gauge the dimensions of the cultural conspiracies and said: Undoubtedly the cultural conspiracies against Islam stem from the great power of the divine religion and are directed toward curtailing its strength. [passage omitted]

The third speaker at this gathering was Mr Kalim Siddiqi, who spoke about the tactics of world arrogance in hatching plots against Islam and said: In the aftermath of the victory of the Islamic revolution, the enemies of Islam feared that this revolution would spread all over the world. [passage omitted]

The last speaker at the roundtable discussion was Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohtashami who spoke about the duty of the Islamic ummah in tackling the plots of world arrogance, and said: Islamic culture is the culture of the dignity and deliverance of mankind, of its supremacy and mastery over its destiny, and of the rejection of the domination of tyrants, pharaohs, and earthly idols.

The enemies resorted to various kinds of stratagems to deal blows to Israel. Therefore, it is necessary that, through cohesion and unity, we prevent such onslaughts and throw their artifices back at them. In the 10 years following the victory of the Islamic revolution, we have seen how world arrogance hatched plots against us in all the corners of the world. Its ultimate goal was to cut off the roots of Islam and it thought that if it could remove Islam from our nation and from the Muslims, then the Muslim nation would be a mute and indifferent spectator to their crimes. It was on this premise that world arrogance took over the direction of Zionism and by means of its mercenary, Salman Rushdie, took steps to publish the book "The Satanic Verses." However, we saw how the perceptiveness of the imam foiled this plot.

He added: To combat this plot, the Muslims of the world are beholden to rise up against the system of apostasy ruling the world and have no other recourse but to destroy it around the world. Today we are witnessing the disintegration of the camp of eastern apostasy, and it is hoped that by the end of the century we will witness not only the dismantling of capitalism and destruction of world arrogance, but also the sovereignty of the pure Muhammadan Islam all over the globe.

The speakers then replied to questions from the audience.

Velayati Favors Using UN Development Programs

LD0602135590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] The first session for reviewing UN Development Project programs relating to internal establishments convened this morning with a speech by Velayati at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

According to the Central News Unit, Mr. Velayati emphasized the necessity for an active presence by the Islamic Republic of Iran in international forums and institutions and called for greater use by internal establishments of the resources and facilities of special UN organs regarding the reconstruction and construction of the country.

The Foreign Ministry described how needed coordination could be brought about between the organizations in our country and the UN research institutes and said: Bearing in mind the Five-Year Plan for expansion of the country, it is necessary for executive departments to benefit more from the UN Development Project's programs, and the Foreign Mnistry is fully ready to prepare the ground for such cooperation.

Editorial Criticizes Saddam's Reform 'Promise'

NC0902114490 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Saddam's Promised Reforms: No More Than Words"]

[Text] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn announced on Friday that the nation's constitution was about to undergo certain changes soon. According to Husayn once the Iraqi leaders give their nod to the changes, a national referendum will be held before they can become law.

One of the more drastic of these changes, says the Iraqi president, will concern freedom of political parties to operate in the country.

Saddam's words are coming at a time when a recent report by the Amnesty International holds that thousands of Iraqi people around Basra and a large number of draft dodgers and run-away soldiers have been shot by firing squad just over the past month.

Saddam's touting over the so-called reforms should of course be looked upon in the light of the wind of reforms that is making rounds of the world these days. His "initiations" are in fact no more than efforts to ride the wave rather than to be swept by it.

By and large, the blowing wind of change that has shaken some East European countries beyond recognition in recent months seems to hae scared the despotic Iraqi ruler out of his wits. In general the wind seems to be

heading towards the Middle East. That is why dictatorial systems, whether royal or military in nature, are trying to look as batting for reforms, as cosmetic as they may be, to keep things under control. [sentence as received]

Some of these Middle Eastern governments seem to believe in the theory that holds "reforms as the brake to revolution." One of the regimes which hastily went for such reforms was the Jordanian government that bandied a relatively free parliament together recently.

Now the Iraqi regime will be able to launch such reforms is totally another question.

Even the most optimistic observers will have to grant that initiation of such reforms will at least be very difficult for Baghdad. And given the country's sociopolitical structure, some tend to give a flat no as the answer to the question.

A police state, relying on a suppressive one party dictatorial regime. This is the true definition of the regime in Baghdad. The history of Iraq is fraught with irresponsible moves, with no regard for the nation's public opinion on the part of the Ba'thists right through the years since their June 1968 coup.

This very blotted history testifies to the fact that Saddam Husayn will not only be ever capable of launching a fundamental reform movement. [sentence as received] He will not be even able to go for superstructural ones. Why so? For a fact the opening of the slightest gap in the monolithic body of systems as dictatorial as that of Iraq will inevitably lead to the tearing dwn of the whole colossal edifice.

Besides a pseudo ideology based on as groundless a notion as racism and tribalism as that of the Ba'athists' offers no solid platform for governing a nation.

The leaders in Baghdad are surely aware of these considerations. As such it may be suggested with some certainty that the future months will only find Saddam's promise of reforms no more than jest and words.

Veleyati Says Tehran Supports Yemeni Solidarity

LD0802183790 Tehran IRNA in English 1033 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—Charges d'affaires in Tehran of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) and the Yemen Arab Republic jointly met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today, and briefed him on the latest outcome of talks for unity between the two Yemens.

Welcoming the move for unity by leaders of North and South Yemen, Velayati expressed the Islamic Republic's support for solidarity.

"Unity of the two Yemens is in line with the strengthening of the Islamic ummah, and Iran in view of its friendly relations with both states, is ready to give any help in this respect," Velayati told PDRY's Ahmad Abu-Bakr and YAR's 'Abd-al-'Ali al-Razi.

Kurdish Refugees in Turkey Appeal for Protection

NC0802150890 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] The Turkish security forces have detained 95 Kurdish refugees who demonstrated at a camp near Diyarbakir in Turkey. A spokesman for the Patriotic Front of Kurdistan in Iraq has disclosed that the Iraqi Kurds demonstrated to protest the poisoning of some 5,000 Kurds by Iraqi security agents and the Turkish Government's failure to take measures to protect the Kurds.

According to a report, the Turkish Government claimed the Kurds were the victims of food poisoning. However, doctors who analyzed blood and bread samples in Britain have announced that they believe that the Kurds were deliberately poisoned by a toxic susbstance. Meanwhile, Kurdish refugees in the camps in Mardin and Diyarbakir have sent a letter to the Turkish parliament asking for protection against the Iraqi regime's threats and Turkey's granting of their demands for political asylum. Furthermore, they also demanded that Turkey agree to receive the aid sent to the Kurdish refugees by the Red Cross and humanitarian organizations.

Commentary Examines Islam in Soviet Azerbaijan

NC0402145190 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 24 Jan 90 p 9

[A. Salah commentary: "O God! You Are a Witness"]

[Text] One day before the Red Army attacked Baku, I was listening to Baku radio. The radio, broadcasting in Azeri, was speaking of the approaching tempest and crying out about the disparities and oppression inflicted by Moscow. The radio said: "We are alone and we have no alternative but to resist. We know that no one will come to our aid, but is there a color darker than black? The ultimate thing is death, which we accept!"

The voice was weak, but determined. After this talk, an interview with a female history professor at the university was conducted. She spoke about dozens of people having been killed and, with a lump in her throat, she repeatedly said: "O God, you are a witness."

This professor, who had been educated in a Marxist system and who possibly had been appointed a professor after completely negating her religious beliefs, was now seeking refuge in the word "God" because all the chains had been broken and she was speaking as a free person. After speaking about the oppressions inflicted by Marxist regimes, this woman sought refuge in the word "God."

The Baku radio announcer then started to read a story and said: "During a fight, a Muslim soldier's arm was cut off by the enemy. The Muslim soldier saw that his arm

had fallen on the ground, and he felt sorry. This was not because his arm had been severed but because his sword had also fallen and he could no longer fight the enemy."

When I heard these words, I realized that Baku radio has also fallen out of the hands of the communists. We, who heard communist propaganda on this radio for years, were today hearing and seeing that Islam was being rekindling from ashes in this frozen materialistic country.

In his remarks on 19 January, Gorbachev confirmed this point and touched on some interesting points. He said: "The problems in Soviet Azerbaijan are becoming more and more complicated every day, and there are those who want to establish an independent Islamic republic there."

It is unbelievable but true. Seventy years after the implementation of the harshest "anti-religious" policies in the Soviet Union, the cry of "God is great" is still heard. It still exists in the hearts of people, and it has terrified the world's powers. The remarks by the leader of the largest socialist country, whose system is based on the negation of religion, actually manifested the disgrace and defeat of policies used for seven decades against religion.

Mr Gorbachev's remarks are actually one side of the card and an expression of the fear and concern felt by the former superpower of the East because an Islamic movement has been formed. The other side of the card is the West and another issue.

The imperialist West with its materialistic foundation also takes the recent developments in Soviet Azerbaijan into account within the context of nationalistic and ethnic sentiments. But what can it do if it cannot hide the truth and has to confess, directly and indirectly, that the incidents are—generally speaking—religious in nature?

The silence of the West during the massacre of the Muslims in Baku is the best proof that the recent developments in the Soviet Union were religious and Islamic in nature. The West's reaction has proven this in the best way possible.

The Westerners pay lip service to human rights only for themselves and for those who have been under the influence of the West. They believe that only they and those who have been under their influence should have human rights. This is why if some Christians were killed in Lithuania, the entire Western world would have risen against Gorbachev. But thousands of Muslims were massacred in Baku. Not only did the civilized West not protest, but it also supported this bloody act.

It is not without reason that Britain's INDEPENDENT blatantly wrote in an issue last week that "Armenia is the brave child of the front of Eastern Christianity against Islam." And it was in endorsing that the European Parliament announced that it is on the side of Armenia in the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict.

Is it actually because of their friendship with the Armenians and their enmity with the Azerbaijanis that they resorted to such an act? Definitely not. The truth is that they declared this stand because one side of the conflict is Muslim and the other is Christian.

Andrey Sakharov, the famous Soviet dissident who died a few weeks ago, was the one who laid the foundation for such a thought in the Western mass media. He said: "The Armenians should be armed so that the Armenian-Azerbaijan problem can be solved."

The publication of these remarks by Sakharov in the Western press surprised Western journalists because he was known as "the hero of human rights in the Soviet Union" and because this advocator of human rights was currently speaking of arming one nation against another.

Some time later, in answer to protests about his remarks, Sakharov said: "The Armenians are Christians; don't you understand?"

We should also state some points about the policy of the Turkish regime here. Two weeks ago (Ercumant Konukman), Turkey's minister without portfolio, spoke about the dream of Panturanianism, or the unity of all Turkic races, and said: "In the near future, we shall see the flags of Turkic governments in Russia."

These remarks were also published in the press and were followed by a protest from the Soviet Government to the Turkish Government.

These remarks were published during Turgut Ozal's visit to Washington. Thus, answering American correspondents, he said: "The Azerbaijanis are Shiites, and we are Sunnis. Therefore there are problems in implementing Panturanianism."

Ozal's remarks elicited comments in Turkey. Turkish politicians, namely former Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, described Ozal's statement as being contrary to laicism and said: "With such views, the Azerbaijanis of the Soviet Union should be placed in the hands of Iran."

The Turkish newspapers also began alleging that the Islamic Republic of Iran was arming the Azerbaijani Muslims and tried to say that the strength of the recent movement in Soiviet Azerbaijan stemmed from arms. But the only weapon that was used on the other side of the Aras River was the weapon of "God is Great." This is what has melted away the ice in this cold winter.

The only thing that the Azerbaijani Muslims took from Iran with them was the holy Koran—a book which shines like a bright and never-setting sun and which warms the cold and lifeless bodies in every country.

It is said that Sattar Khan, the Azerbaijani freedom-seeker said: "Azerbaijan is like a pot carved out of stone. It may need some time to warm up. But once it does, it does not cool down easily."

KEYHAN Condemns UK's Expulsion of Nationals

NC0902212090 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
3 Feb 90 p 2

[Hoseyn Qasemi commentary: "Great Britain's National Security and Potential Dangers!"]

[Excerpts] Last Thursday the British Home Office announced that nine Iranians residing in that country had been ordered to leave the country within a week. The Home Office announcement only gave the number of persons to be expelled and not their names. Moreover, it said that the expulsions were to take place because these persons posed "a potential danger" to "public law and order and national security."

"The British" have always tried to show that when they take such measures they do so after considering all aspects of the issue including legal aspects and causes in an effort to endow their actions with the necessary legitimacy. [passage omitted]

Perhaps the British do not need to give reasons or justify their action as it can be considered a link in the chain of hostile actions on the part of the Methuselah of colonialism against the Islamic revolution. On the other hand, it appears that the "British" are quite confident that such inimical actions will not have any effect on their relations with us and will not cast any doubt on these relations!

The British measure, announced on 1 February on the eve of the 11th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution, smacked of self-consolation. In tandem with the new wave of propagandistic plots by world arrogance against the Islamic revolution, which have spread to the four corners of the world, the British are endeavoring to prove that the various acts of treachery and subterfuge, which they have constantly flaunted with pride, do not stem from any shortcomings in their diplomacy and that they do not wish to lag behind the others.

It is this British opportunism which has motivated them to join in the clamor raised by the U.S. Senate Foreign Committee over what it said was an arms accord between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the PRC, as well as allegations by some members of the European Parliament of Iran's involvement in international terrorism and its violation of human rights. [passage omitted]

Once again, on the eve of the first anniversary of the imam's historic decree on Salman Rushdie, the British, by expelling Iranian citizens for no reason and by resorting to intimidation and club wielding, are attempting to bring home to the Muslim community within their country the fate that awaits them. Perhaps, their wishful thinking tells them that they have found a way to rein in the cry for justice by the British Muslim community.

Retaliation for Expulsions Urged

NC0902174590 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
4 Feb 90 p 2

[Mir Mas'udi commentary: "Expel the BBC Correspondent in Tehran"]

[Text] In cases where wars of words have replaced military clashes, it is vitally important that a society's mass media should exercise great vigilance and care in tackling misleading propaganda.

While the label "the age of communications" may not be the most appropriate name for the contemporary era, it does at least reflect a reality of the era in which we live. In times of straitened circumstances, the weapons of propaganda are more potent than the most sophisticated military hardware. At such times, we see ourselves bombarded by a blitz of propaganda and publicity—an onslaught of news bombshells that travels over radio waves at great speed and astounds people all over the world.

The British Home Office last Thursday sent letters to nine Iranians asking them to leave Great Britain within the next few days as they have been charged with having links with certain organizations and individuals which support the Iranian Government.

The expulsion of Iranians from London is not a new phenomenon. However when the list of those expelled includes the chief of the London office of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, we realize that the British Government has, with its latest measures, encroached upon the domain of journalists freedom and further endangered the already shaky sanctuary of the Iranian correspondents in London. Thus in the struggle between accurate and inaccurate news, it hopes that only inaccurate news will henceforth be sent to Iran.

The enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran not only possess the strongest news disseminating apparatus, but cannot even tolerate the presence of one Iranian correspondent in London. At the same time, foreign journalists in Iran are transmitting tens of thousands of words in the form of spurious and incorrect reports to news agencies in London and other parts of the world and making the Islamic revolution the target of their abominable propagandistic assault.

Of these journalists, we can mention the BBC correspondent in Tehran who continues to work freely and even analyzed the expulsion of the chief of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic with great fanfare in a BBC news program despite the incorrect and malicious reports against the Islamic Republic of Iran he files.

In the face of all this shamelessness and pettiness, which is in fact support for the expulsion of the Iranian students and correspondents in London, it is expected that the Foreign Ministry will take some decisive measures to retaliate for the ugly acts of the British Government. If the Iranian journalists in London cannot freely

and accurately report on the situation in the
Muslim would accept that British correspond
be able to continue transmitting malicious
spying on the Iranian people?

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dents should
reports and

Aqazadeh on Japanese, French Oil Proj

LD0902061590 Tehran Television Service in
1600 GMT 8 Feb 90

jects
n Persian

[Text] The Continental Shelf Oil Company
signed separate agreements with Japanese
companies for the reconstruction and renov
great Salman oil-rig platform on the conti
between Iran and Abu Dhabi, as well as the
platform situated in the Sirri area.

of Iran has
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Nasr oil-rig

In an interview with our reporter today, M
the oil minister, announced the above
According to the first agreement, the ren
reconstruction of the large-scale Salman ma
has been awarded to two Japanese compan
Steel and Toyomenka, on the basis of joi
bility. He said the duration for the implemen
said project is 21 months; its cost is estima
million, which will be repaid after utiliz
Salman platform through the utilizatio
exploited from the joint Iran-Abu Dhabi oil

Aqazadeh,
and said:
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ated at $300
tion of the
of the oil
deposits.

The oil minister added that yesterday the
Shelf Oil Company of Iran also signed an agr
the French company ETPN [expansion u
ment of the Nasr oil platform, situated in
region of Sirri. According to the $45 millio
the said French company, which was the ori
of the said complex, is to begin work during
15 months on reconstruction of the 100,0
day oil platform, as well as work on the inst
new platform for living quarters.

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Hashemi-Rafsanjani Interviewed on New

LD1002092490 Tehran Television Service in
1600 GMT 9 Feb 90

Refinery
Persian

[Interview with President Hashemi-Rafsanj
dentified correspondent in Tehran; date
recorded]

ani by uni-
ot given—

[Excerpts] [Unidentified correspondent] The
of the Nar and Kangan gas refinery was con
by Your Excellency today. Please tell us wh
ernment plans are concerning the expansi
projects and the export of gas, and how far
projects assist the government in its first eco

first phase
nmissioned
at the gov-
on of such
would these
omic plan?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, th
sionate, the Merciful. This is one of the mos
infrastructure projects in the country. It gre
other parts of the Five-Year Plan. It is a take-
the country's affairs.

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Except for the war, this project would have been completed much sooner; but because of the war it took longer than expected. However, thank God, we have reached an operational stage; today one of the units was commissioned.

This project is extremely effective, both from a financial viewpoint and in terms of supplying domestic energy needs. After the completion of the project, its output will be 80 million cubic meters per day. This would give us the equivalent of 700,000 barrels of paraffin or diesel oil, which is much more than the capacity of Abadan refinery before it was destroyed. The Abadan refinery was connected to outside oil reserves, while this one is self-sufficient. Gas comes out of the ground, is refined, and transported to the rest of the country.

Over the next four or five years, 200 towns will have gas pipelines and the people will use gas. If the people and factories use gas instead of furnace oil or diesel oil, and if some of our vehicles are converted to gas, it will make us greatly dependent on this project. Thank God, there was a great deal of effort to safeguard the facilities during the war, and speedy work was done to make it operational after the war. [passage omitted]

The second phase of the project is more important than the first. Most of the necessary facilities have fortunately been purchased and delivered. We must now resolve the existing administrative problems so that the project can become operational as soon as possible. We know that each day the project is delayed the country incurs heavy losses, due to not receiving a return on investment. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

Karrubi Opens Nuclear Technology Laboratory

LD0702181490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Karrubi, speaker of the Majles, inspected various departments of the Atomic Energy Organization this morning and opened the Jabir Ibn-al-Hayyan laboratory unit of that organization. The Jabir Ibn-al-Hayyan laboratory will be a center for the teaching of nuclear technology and will provide basic instruction to students of nuclear technology courses.

National Gas Company Head Cited on Gas Exports

NC0802093890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Operation of the first gas refinery unit in the world's second largest gas refinery—in southern Iran—is beginning.

Yesterday the deputy petroleum minister and the managing director of the National Iranian Gas Company [NIGC] stated that following the startup of this gas refinery unit, the final talks for concluding the agreement

on exporting 8 million cubic meters of Iranian gas each day to the Soviet Union will be next week.

The NIGC managing director said the first gas refinery for the Nar and Kangan reserves in Bushehr officially will begin operational during the auspicious 10 Days of Dawn of the Islamic revolution and that during the coming months, the second and third refinery units of the first phase of this refinery will begin operation. He said this refinery, which will be able to refine 34 million cubic meters daily in the first phase and 79 million cubic meters daily in the second phase, will supply the country's gas exports after completely meeting domestic needs.

The deputy petroleum minister for gas affairs also stated that during the Five-Year Plan for the country's economic, social, and cultural development, the NIGC will invest 640 billion rials in projects for gas extraction and distribution, of which the $1.8 billion will be in the form of foreign exchange.

Commenting on the project for distributing gas to townships around Tehran and to the country's industrial areas, the NIGC managing director told our correspondent the following in an interview:

[Begin recording] [NIGC managing director] The NIGC recently has decided to distribute gas in the townships around Tehran according to its Five-Year Plan on the condition the boards of directors in the townships help the company with the project. The company is prepared to provide pipes to the townships so they will carry out the project under our supervision.

[Correspondent] In other words, based on your new plan, what is the difference between how gas now will be distributed to the townships and how it was?

[NIGC managing director] Before, we ran gas pipes up to the fence [preceding word in English] of the township, while the distribution inside the fence [preceding word in English] was assigned to the townships themselves. Now we are prepared to run gas pipes inside the townships, too.

[Correspondent] When will gas distribution in Tehran be completed?

[NIGC managing director] The plan for the main city of Tehran is estimated to be completed by the end of 1370 [year beginning 21 March 1991]. Some of the townships, however, will be completed after 1370. But if we receive the assistance required under the new plan that we have proposed, these projects possibly may be completed at the same time as our main plan.

[Correspondent] What is the NIGC's plan for distributing gas to industries?

[NIGC managing director] In view of the operation of Kangan and surplus production, we have made plans to serve factories, too. We also have stopped centralization and switched to the provincial centers. Now the industries can apply to the provincial centers for gas distribution, and after they have tendered their plans, the NIGC can assist them in running gas pipes inside their factories.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Defense Industries To Manufacture Tank Parts

LD0802163690 Tehran IRNA in English 1102 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—The defence industries of the Islamic Republic will shortly be manufacturing parts for various classifications of army tanks and armoured vehicles.

Hasan Habibi first deputy of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani who visited a plant near here Thursday expressed pleasure with the progress in the manufacture of military hardware.

The presidential deputy also advised the Education and Defence Ministries to arrange for technical and vocational education in the area.

Habibi also visited the chemical complex of the Armed Forces in Parchin Thursday.

Iranian Steel Company Director on Plans

NC0902112890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] During the coming [ati] Five-Year Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 114.767 million rials have been earmarked for investment in iron and steel. Out of this amount, the 40.195 million rials will be in the form of foreign exchange.

This was stated by Mr. Banki, managing director of the National Iranian Steel Company [NISC], who also emphasized the need to implement the plan to construct a complex for manufacturing processed steel in the country and said: Currently the international price for each tonne of processed steel ranges from $3,000 to $5,000, while the price for each tonne of ordinary steel does not exceeed a maximum of $300. Thus, in view of the need for processed steel in various industries, we have started talks with German industrial advisers. We hope in 1369 [year beginning 21 March 1990] the final decision on this will be adopted so we thus can manufacture 120,000 tonnes of processed steel annually in the first phase and 200,000 tonnes annually in the second phase.

The NISC managing director said there currently are nine companies operating in Gilan, Mazandaran, Khorasan, Kerman, Tehran, Markazi, and Esfahan Provinces which are in charge of digging, equipment, exploitation, and procuring the material used in the steel industry.

Mr. Banki also said one of the future plans of the country's steel industry is to elevate the production level

of the Esfahan Steel Mill to 4 million tonnes annually and to exploit the large 600-million tonne capacity of Tabas coal mine, the 600-million tonne capacity of the Gol-e Gowhar iron ore reserves, and the 400-million tonne capacity of the (Chadermelo) reserves.

He added: For implementation of the coming Five-Year Plan in the steel industry, we need a 22,447-strong expert and semi-expert manpower force, and we gradually should start to employ and to train this force.

TV Satellite Station in Borujen Commissioned

LD0402130990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] The programs of the Second Network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRTV2] are now beamed to Borujen, in Chahar Mahall Bakhtiyari Province.

According to a Central News Unit report, a transmitter station receives IRTV2 programs, via satellite, and beams them for 100,000 inhabitants of the area, on Channel 6. The cost of installation and start-up of the 50w transmitter, which were carried out by Chahar Mahall Bakhtiyari Television Transmitters' Repairs Unit, amounted to 20 million rials.

New TV Relay Stations in Esfahan Operational

LD0402131190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Thanks to the efforts of experts from the television relay station of the Esfahan District, the satellite stations in the townships of Feraydunshahr and Semirum became operational.

According to a Central News Unit report, the satellite station of Feraydunshahr, with the power of 10 kw, will relay the programs of the Second Network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the inhabitants of 20 villages, in that township, on Channel 9. The satellite station of Semirum township will likewise relay the programs of the Second Network, with the power of 10 kw, on Channel 8.

The entire expenditure involved in the construction and electricity generation of those stations were provided by the governorships of Feraydunshahr and Semirum.

TV Satellite Station Inaugurated in Hesarbon

LD0502142590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] The satellite station in Hesarbon, in Firuzkuh, was commissioned during the auspicious 10 Days of Dawn. According to a Central News Unit report, the satellite station, which was installed and started up by Tehran Regional TV Transmitters Repairs and Maintenance Unit, will beam the programs of the First Network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the inhabitants of Hesarbon and Simindasht, on Channel 7. The project was implemented thanks to the voluntary cooperation of the inhabitants of Hesarbon.

*Report on 7 Jan 90 Majles Session

90OI0140A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 8 Jan 90 p 5

[Excerpts] Legal and Majles Department—Yesterday morning and afternoon the Majles convened in public session under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, and then continued chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Bayat.

During this session, after readings of verses from the glorious words of God, Dr Hasan Rowhani, Tehran deputy, and Mr Astaneh, Sarband Arak deputy, spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then the memos from the deputies to the nation's executive officials were read, and the Majles began its agenda.

Our parliamentary correspondent reports that the first item on the agenda was study of the resignation of Mr Vaqefi from his position as deputy, and after comments from opponents and supporters, the aforementioned person's resignation was accepted.

The second and final item on the agenda was continued consideration of the five-year plan bill, in which budget ceilings for groups and organizations were discussed.

Printed below are the remarks of the pre-agenda speakers and details of the proceedings.

Hasan Rowhani, Tehran Deputy

Mr Hasan Rowhani, Tehran deputy, was the first pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's public Majles session. While praising the pure and sacred soul of His Holiness the Imam (May God Have Mercy on Him) and offering greetings to the great leader of the Islamic revolution and the generous Iranian nation, he said:

The extraordinary events that have taken place in the world recently and are continuing, the events that have happened in our own region, as well as the events that have taken place within our country, are persuading us to reexamine once more our own place and position in the world.

He then said: The changes that have taken place in the world in recent months, meaning the events in Eastern Europe, events that began and expanded from the Soviet Union, have two dimensions. In the ideological dimension, it is a great victory for Islam and the Muslims. Months ago our dear and great Imam predicted these events as a great skilled physician who was the first in the world to announce the death of this monster, and that monster that rose against religion 70 years ago in the name of unchanging principles and stood against religious thought, this monster died, was defeated, and disappeared. From the ideological point of view this was a victory for Islam and the Muslims, and the Imam gave

this good news to the people before anyone else. Politically, however, it is important and worthy of study for us. Is it in our interest for the East and the West to be close? Are today's emerging world political events contrary to our national interests? We must consider this point more carefully. The polarities of the world are in the process of change over this issue. The political polarities of the world may not be perfectly clear to some people. Is the world moving to a mono-polar orientation? Is the world moving to a three-pole or four-pole orientation? In any case, it is an important world issue that we must examine more carefully for our national interest and security.

Noting that the Americans have misused the events of the East and Europe, he said: What happened in Panama is a warning signal for all the Third World, and neither we nor anyone else in the Third World can remain indifferent to events such as those that took place in Panama. The scenario of the arrest of the president of a country, putting him in chains, and taking him to another country and deciding to try him may be one of the ugliest images we have seen in the early days of the new Christian year. Unfortunately, the American congress has given Bush a medal of national heroism for his intervention, and this is another reason for regret, that they give medals to some people in the world for aggression and crimes, and some people get medals.

He added: Along with these events, other events are taking place in our own region, including new alliances, new assistance from the world to Iraq, the events we are witnessing in our region, and the emergence adjacent to the Islamic Republic of Iran of a new council called the Arab Cooperation Council with participation by Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, and Yemen. We are seeing unsparing arms assistance from the world to Iraq, and we cannot easily pass over these events.

Mr Rowhani then discussed the loss of the Imam of the nation. He said: The loss of the Imam within our country was the most important event our people have seen. If we put these three points together, the loss of the greatest figure in the world of Islam and the loss of His Holiness the Imam, the events that have taken place in our region and the world events we have seen, it tells us that we must fight and stand against the plots of the world at this historic time with greater unity and coordination. Along with these events, in our own country we have see three points of hope and light, all three of which are blessings and gifts from God:

(1) The election of a figure like His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i as leader of the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a very short period of time after the passing of His Holiness the Imam, 21 hours after his death, which was a very important event showing the extraordinary growth of the Iranian nation and (2) the extraordinary presence of the people on the scene, a presence that astonished friend and foe throughout the world, and the third issue, which we have seen within our own country and which was a point of hope was the assumption of the nation's executive power by a figure who is the number two person in our country, and after the position of the leader, he is the dearest, most beloved, and highest revolutionary and Islamic figure, meaning His Holiness Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin His Excellency Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who has assumed leadership of the executive power and the government. These three points of hope, the presence of the people on the scene, leadership by the most worthy person, and assumption of responsibility for the country by the number two figure of the revolution and the nation who gave the people hope against every plot, and foiled all the plots and plans the enemy had devised.

He also discussed international plots and the presence of America and the West in Lebanon and the Persian Gulf. He said: The person who can unite the people against the plots of the world and the region is that person who can bring about our national unity for us. Who is it that can raise the banner of struggle above the plots? What organization? What power? Neither the government, the judicial power, the Majles, nor anyone else can bear this standard. Only the leader can carry this banner. The person today who can stand against these plots and defeat them and who can lead the Iranian nation on one path is the chief theologian. If we did not have our chief theologian our revolution would not be victorious and if we did not have our chief theologian, they would have crushed us with the tens and hundreds of plots that have developed these last ten or 11 years. Today is a time when we must stand behind the leader with all our power, generosity, religious zeal, and sacrifice. We must give everything, for such is our nation, as it has shown and will show. Such is our nation, such is our judicial power. Our executive power and all our organizations are behind the leadership, and each of them knows that its legal legitimacy is in obedience to the leadership, otherwise they are not legitimate, and they cannot continue even for one moment.

He continued: Our government is in sensitive circumstances, and today we must all rise up to help the government. The government of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani is not a weak government. It does not fear criticism and no one must be afraid to criticize. As it happens, constructive criticism is quite good and useful. However, what the great leader of the revolution has told the entire nation of Iran and what we all must hear is not that we ought not to criticize, but that we stop looking for pretexts. The dangerous thing is our looking for pretexts for criticism, our incitement of disturbances. We must put these things aside and our nation must certainly show sensitivity to the creation of disturbances. The important thing is that we must not permit someone to speak falsely against the government and the executive officials.

We must stand against those who go into society and lie and spread insults, no matter who they are. The judicial power must not be indifferent to slander and insults. The law of Islam requires this of them. If the people are involved, the power of the judicial power will be greater.

In conclusion, he stressed: We believe that with these three bright points, the leadership, the government of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and the presence of the people on the scene, we can stand against all the plots with the help of the divine power, and, God willing, the path of the dear Imam of the nation will continue under the leadership of Ayatollah Khamene'i.

Mahmud Astaneh, Sarband Arak Deputy

Mr Astaneh, Sarband Arak deputy, was the final pre-agenda speaker. At the beginning of his talk he discussed the anniversary of the brave struggle of 150 martyrs in the Hovizeh Plain epic. He said: These days coincide with the anniversary of the Hovizeh Plain epic, the place where one of the most beautiful scenes in this battle between the Truth and the Vain was enacted. The day of the battle was 16 Dey [6 January]. Bravely, 150 martyrs led by brother Martyr Hoseyn 'Alamolhedi went against unequal odds, with each mobilized person facing an enemy tank. These dear ones, inspired by the martyr of martyrs, His Holiness 'Abdollah al-Hoseyn (Peace Be Upon Him), fought to the last breath and did not submit to the traitor enemy, although they realized that their pure corpses would be crushed under tank treads. May their spirits be joyous and their way be long.

He then stressed one of the high points of His Holiness the Imam's divine and political will with regard to strengthening the armed forces. He said:

The officials must note that in the world the thing that is used more than any other thing or group by the great powers and the destructive powers is the armed forces.

Mr Astaneh expressed thanks for the support of the Plan and Budget Organization and its commission, and he then criticized the nation's current defense budget. He said:

1) In view of the fact that throughout the study of the plan not the least attention has been given to the defense budget, we protest, and we ask the respected deputies to take note of page 87 of the Plan and Budget Commission's report on the current budget with regard to defense affairs, and compare it briefly with the current budget for the other ministries, and this will show that there has been at least a natural annual increase in the budgets for the ministries, yet the current budget for the armed forces has decreased, and in reality the Plan and Budget Organization and Commission have made this proposal with no regard for the real figures and statistics and without observing the logical solution affirmed by the competent authorities.

2) A look at the five-year plan shows an average annual increase of 60 percent in income over the year 1368 [21 March 1989 - 20 March 1990] and an increase of 20 percent in expenditures, and in any case the average increase in expenditures is less than that of income, yet the defense sector is deprived of an income increase.

3) In the second session the respected Majles approved the Army Law of the Islamic Republic of Iran and after the legal procedures this law was declared in force by the Ministry of Defense. The Army Wages and Benefit Law for the current year was approved with 30 billion rials credit. Commission experts, the Plan and Budget Organization, and the Defense Commission set the real financial load for this bill after repeated adjustments at 40 billion rials for the coming year, 30 billion of which is the army share, 10 billion of which will go to the police. On the one hand the Revolutionary Guard Employment Law is under consideration in the Council of Ministers. Based on the preliminary studies conducted in the presence of the appropriate experts, if the Revolutionary Guard Employment Law includes no increase for the net income of the revolutionary guardsmen, and on the other hand if it is implemented in such a way that it is works the way it does for other government personnel and police forces, the deductions for insurance and retirement will be ten percent, with two percent for health care, one percent for accidents. Under the government's retirement share of 10 percent, two percent will be paid for health care, two percent for accidents, and four percent for savings, which is added to the current budget for 1368 [21 March 1989 - 20 March 1990]. With a total of 30 percent of Article 1, the current article for this law, the minimum financial load will be 35 billion rials. Yet revolutionary guard officials and Defense Ministry and pension experts believe that the income for revolutionary guard personnel is unjust, and they propose larger figures for the Revolutionary Guard Employment Law to eliminate discrimination. To relieve the shortage in the current budget, if you look at the minimum figure provided by the Defense Affairs Commission at line 503041, you will see that there is under no circumstances the possibility of funding the budget from this line, and in this area and in every other instance we are prepared to sit with the experts in the Plan and Budget Organization and the respected Plan and Budget Commission, although, as they themselves say, due to the shortage of time we are not confident of this work.

4) In Note 10 of the five-year plan, concerning the implementation of Principle 47 of the Constitution, the armed forces, the Ministry of Defense and Support are authorized to make contract agreements with the executive organizations. Although this appears to be a good and appropriate measure, there are problems with the very act of putting your military forces in the role of contractors. The greatest motivation for this note is their income and the need to compensate for their budget shortfall. I say you must first make the forces secure, provide them with the necessary budget. Then this organization and these institutions, which can conscript hundreds of thousands of soldiers at minimal expense, can be used to implement projects, development, and military work as ordered and commanded.

5) I believe that according to Principle 110 of the Constitution which gives leadership of all the armed forces to the great position of the leader, the budget for

the armed forces must be studied separately from other organizations and under the supervision of the commander of all the armed forces, rather than the Plan and Budget Organization, saying we will give one budget for this amount of forces, and you go and bring us a plan.

At the conclusion of his talk, the Sarband Arak deputy rejected Saddam's proposal to defile Resolution 598, and then emphasized: Saddam and his henchmen must know that there is no way other than full implementation of Resolution 598. We will prove this in the negotiations.

Details of the Proceedings

The first item on the agenda in yesterday's public Majles session was a study of the request for the resignation of Mr Vaqefi from his post as deputy.

Text of Mr Vaqefi's Resignations

With respect and regards to the respected speaker of the Majles and the dear leader of the deputies, and with your permission, I read the text of the resignation.

To the respected speaker of the Majles Your Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mr Karrubi, greetings and respect, and with a view to the need for active presence in the period of national reconstruction and in order to fulfill the duties of the toiling government and the need for comprehensive effort to achieve the goals of the five-year plan, in this way, in order to join with the masses of the true and serving workers of the government of His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani and in view of my duties as governor-general of the Province of Esfahan, I submit my resignation as deputy to the respected Majles. For me, the six years of close cooperation side by side with the dear brother deputies, who, as our great Imam said, are the essence of the best of this nation, has been a great and unforgettable honor, and even though separation from the great, believing, and sacrificing society of dear Majles colleagues will be a loss for me, the close, sincere, and perpetual relationship between the legislative power and the executive power will go a long ways to make up for my sense of loss. With greetings, thanks, and prayers for your well-being, sincerely, Seyyed Mohammad Reza Vaqefi.

Mr Mo'ezi (Favoring the Resignation)

Supporting Mr Vaqefi's resignation, Mr Mo'ezi, Esfahan deputy, said:

One of the characteristics of the five-year plan will certainly be its creation of powerful forces familiar with our regions throughout Iran, and if we can properly achieve this, we will certainly be successful in carrying out the five-year plan. Here it is not my objective to defend the policies of the respected Ministry of the Interior, but during this short time that our great brother His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nuri has been minister of the interior, with this same policy he has appointed various governors-general in the provinces of Iran, and in personal talks I have had with him, he said, my policy is to make my selections from forces who are specialists and whose executive capabilities have been evaluated carefully during the war and who know their areas better as well. Before we started looking for political factions, as the respected deputies know, the Province of Esfahan is an industrial province, and in view of the significant volume of industrial activities that will be carried out here and there in this province during the five-year plan, it is very, very necessary for our great brother Mr Engineer Vaqefi, with all his qualifications, to be there in the province. [passage omitted]

Mr Saleh-Abadi (Opposed to the Resignation)

[passage omitted] Mr Saleh-Abadi then added: We have always had and continue to have special good will for Mr Vaqefi, as well as for Mr Nuri, who himself knows the Majles and the deputies, as well as the Province of Esfahan. Whenever he wants a governor-general, he goes immediately to the Majles, when he wants a minister, he goes immediately to the Majles. He is a good deputy, and we spoke with him yesterday. He said Mr Nuri had called him and said I need a governor-general, and it would be good if you could come. In any case now you are in the Majles, but now you want to go and become governor-general somewhere. I would like to say that if this door is opened, every day we will see the Ministry of the Interior or some other place coming and saying we need a governor-general, let's go to the Majles. We must not allow this, we must protect our professional identity.

Mr Taha'i (Supporting the Resignation)

Mr Taha'i spoke in favor of Mr Vaqefi's resignation. He said:

Our respected Majles has the honor of having worked with the toiling government of brother Engineer Musavi in the most sensitive times, and where the toiling government of Mr Musavi requested it, he was given special cooperation. Today also our toiling government led by our revolutionary dear and beloved Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani is in need of continued cooperation from the Majles, and in compiling the five-year plan with the government of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Majles has displayed this cooperation more powerfully and extensively. The subject of discussion now, however, is that Mr Engineer Saleh-Abadi has stated that the elimination of Mr Engineer Vaqefi from the Majles and adding him to the toiling government would entail something of a financial burden. I say that only one of the projects now being implemented in the Province of Esfahan, the Mobarakeh Steel Complex, will cost the government 80 billion tomans credit before it goes into operation. This is equal to a full year's development budget. The dear brothers must take note of the important industrial projects that are underway in the Province of Esfahan. The Mobarakeh Steel Project is one of the largest industrial projects. Likewise, today the

Province of Esfahan is considered one of the nation's most important industrial centers, and a great part of the nation's total credits, due to technical and economic requirements, are concentrated in that province, and it is necessary that the brothers look with favor on this sector.

At the conclusion of his talk, Mr Taha'i said:

If the people of the Province of Esfahan are losing a dear brother in the legislative trenches, they are gaining a dear brother in the executive power, and the respected Esfahan deputies are aware of this.

In conclusion a vote was taken on the resignation of Mr Vaqefi and agreement was reached on his resignation to allow him to assume the post of governor-general of the Province of Esfahan.

Study of Five-Year Plan Bill

The second and final item on the agenda was continued consideration of the five-year plan bill, which was presented.

Concerning the plan's general objectives, Mr Malek-Asa proposed that this language be inserted concerning agricultural sector policies:

To raise the level of the nation's meat production and its animal husbandry products, the government will guarantee the purchase of surplus meat from livestock keepers and farmers at cooperative and appropriate prices, and it will make the utmost effort to procure livestock veterinary needs.

There was no opposition to this proposal, and after comments from the commission expert and the government's representative, it was put to a vote and passed.

Likewise in the study of the table for the budget ceiling for defense affairs, several proposals were presented which were not approved.

The Majles adjourned for a recess at 12:10.

Yesterday afternoon the Majles convened in public session chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Bayat and discussed the budget ceiling.

In this session Mr Bayat, deputy speaker, announced: There is a proposal to the effect that "the budget ceiling should be frozen and there should be no increases." There was therefore a discussion of the proposal, and then a vote was taken and it was approved by the deputies.

The Health and Treatment Commission made two proposals: 1) 36 billion rials should be deleted from the current year's health and treatment budget and transferred to the development budget. 2) $49 billion in separate foreign exchange should be allocated to construct new hospital beds.

Concerning this proposal, Mr Akrami spoke in opposition and Mr Rah-Chamani spoke in support, and after views were given by the commission expert and the government's representative, the above proposal was put to a vote and approved.

The Health and Treatment Commission also proposed that $80 million dollars should be added to the budget for social security hospitals, to be allocated from oil and gas revenues.

Concerning this proposal, Mr Alviri spoke in opposition and Mr Majd-Ansari spoke in support, and after views were given by the commission expert and the government's expert, the proposal was put to a vote and approved by the deputies.

The Islamic Guidance Commission made these few proposals:

1) Intelligence and social relations from private savings, 152 billion rials, use of the banking system 51 billion rials, totaling 203 billion rials and investment of 248 billion rials.

2) Culture and art from private savings, 174 billion rials, use of the banking system 144 billion rials, with total investment of 256.5 billion rials.

3) Tourism, from private savings, 349.8 billion rials, use of the banking system 83.7 billion rials. The total investment in this sector is 453.5 billion rials.

Concerning this proposal a vote was taken and it was approved by the deputies.

A number of members of the Defense Affairs Commission proposed that the "national defense budget be increased 400 billion rials, to be procured from oil and gas revenues."

This proposal was put to a vote and approved.

Mr Behzadiyan proposed that "urban development budgets should be decreased and instead development credit should be increased up to 58 billion rials."

This proposal was put to a vote and approved.

Pakistan

'Grave Concern' Conveyed on Indian Border Firing

BK1202153190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] The Indian high commissioner, Mr. J.N. Dixit, was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad today in connection with the contact made with him by the foreign secretary last night. The Pakistani Government's grave concern and deep grief over the incident of Indian troops firing on the unarmed civilians at the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir was conveyed to him. Many people were martyred and many others injured in the incident.

The high commissioner was asked to apprise his govern-
ment of the Pakistani Government's grave concern over
this incident of firing. The high commissioner was also
told to make arrangements for the immediate return of
the persons arrested by the Indian security forces. He
was told that it is very essential to act with extreme
restraint in the current dangerous situation to save the
situation from further deterioration.

'High-level Contacts' With India on Kashmir Issue

BK1302030690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Pakistan has established high-level contacts with India in which it stressed the need for India to exercise restraint and stop the series of firings across the border and the line of control into Pakistan and on the Azad Kashmir citizens. Quoting a senior diplomat, the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN said Pakistan's foreign secretary had contacted his Indian counterpart through the hot line and said India should not use weapons against the citizens who are protesting against the atrocities in occupied Kashmir. He said there is no justification for this sort of strategy in international norms and jurisprudence.

It is understood that the senior military officials of Pakistan and India have also established contacts with each other to maintain peace and tranquillity on the border and control line.

Kashmiri Leaders Condemn Indian Border Firing

BK1202160090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Many Kashmiri leaders have condemned the barbaric firing by Indian troops on unarmed civilian demonstrators yesterday at the line of control at Chakoti in Azad Kashmir. Azad Kashmir President Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan said that the people of Kashmir will continue to make sacrifices for the liberation of their dear motherland. In an interview with Radio Pakistan's Muzaffarabad representative, he said the Kashmir uprising cannot be termed as a secessionist movement because the Kashmiri people are struggling for their right of self-determination.

Condemning the firing by Indian troops, Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan emphasized that the United Nations take immediate notice of the incident. In a statement in Islamabad today, he said the Kashmiris living on both sides of the line of control have the right to cross to the other side of the border in accordance with the UN resolutions.

Azad Kashmir People's Party chief Sardar Mohammad Ibrahim and the party's secretary general, Tariq Nizami, have also condemned the massacre of unarmed civilians by the Indian troops.

A complete strike was observed in Muzaffarabad and other towns today in protest against the Indian troops' firing. Protest rallies were held and processions were organized and prayers offered for the martyrs.

Ambassador Briefs Perez de Cuellar on Kashmir

BK1302035490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] The Pakistan ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. Nasim Ahmad, met the Secretary General, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, in New York yesterday and briefed him on the latest developments in occupied Kashmir. He said the uprising in occupied Kashmir is totally indigenous resulting from the cumulative effects of the denial of the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination. Pakistan has no hand whatsoever in these developments, and the Indian allegations about Pakistan's interference in the disputed territory are totally baseless. No independent observer has put the blame on Pakistan.

The Pakistan ambassador drew the attention of the secretary general to the threats being made by the Indian leadership against Pakistan and said that have aggravated the situation in the region. He made it clear that Pakistan does not seek confrontation with India in the face of these provocations. It seeks a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute in the spirit of the Simla Agreement and in accordance with the United Nations resolutions.

Mr. Nasim Ahmad also distributed copies of the resolution adopted by Pakistan's parliament on Saturday [10 February] saying that there is a consensus among all political parties on the option to be adopted for a settlement of the Kashmir dispute. He expressed Pakistan Government's appreciation to the secretary general for his expression of concern over the grave developments in Occupied Kashmir and for continuing to monitor the situation there.

A UN spokesman said the secretary general called for restraint on the part of all sides so that there was a reduction in tension.

Denies Indian Allegations

BK1302100190 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Pakistan stands for resolving the Jammu and Kashmir dispute with India peacefully through a UN-supervised plebiscite in the state. Addressing a news conference at the UN headquarters after a meeting with the secretary general, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, the Pakistan ambassador, Mr. Nasim Ahmad, described as unfair and unfounded the Indian allegations that Pakistan is involved in the tragic situation in Kashmir. The current uprising by the Kashmiris is indigenous and is the result of denial of their right to self-determination as promised to them by both India and Pakistan. He said Pakistan has exercised a good deal of restraint in spite of extensive force being used by Indian security forces to put down demonstrations in occupied Kashmir and also against

unarmed student protesters on the line of control. Pakistan's moderate stand is reflected in a resolution adopted at a joint session of parliament in Islamabad. It is Pakistan's firm conviction that the Kashmir dispute, which has been before the United Nations since 1947, should be resolved peacefully in accordance with the UN resolutions.

Ryzhkov Sends Message to Bhutto While Overflying

BK1202161090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Soviet Prime Minister Ryzhkov has expressed the hope that relations between the Soviet Union and Pakistan will continue to be strengthened and will benefit the people of the two countries and contribute toward establishing lasting peace in the world. In a message sent to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto while overflying Pakistani territory on his way to Bangkok, he expressed sincere wishes for peace in Pakistanb and prosperity for its people.

Spokesman Opposes Sind Protest Day Observation

BK1202163590 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] The Sind chief minister is to convene all-parties conference to muster cooperation of leaders of public opinion to deal with the law and order situation in Karachi. This was announced by a spokesman of the Interior Ministry in Islamabad today. Commenting on the reports that some political parties have given a call to observe next Friday [16 February] as a protest day against the killings of Karachi, this is a most inopportune move. The present situation calls for united efforts to diffuse tension in the interest of the innocent people of Karachi.

The spokesman recalled that the prime minister has already appointed a high-powered commission of inquiry to look into factors that led to the tragedy of Wednesday last [7 February]. He said the present call and plans to hold public meetings in all big cities would certainly pollute the atmosphere further and hoped that sponsors of the (?move) will reconsider their plans in the interest of peace and unity.

Government Orders Law, Order Restored in Karachi

BK1302102590 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 12—The Federal Government is understood to have issued special instructions to the Provincial government of Sind to restore law and order in Karachi even if it has to use a 'heavy hand.'

The Federal authorities, it is said, have also agreed to the Provincial government request to allow the latter to arrest and detain some of the top level leaders of ethnic groups. However a last minute intervention from the top has prevented the provincial administration from launching a massive hunt.

Federal Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan, who is reportedly appointed by the Prime Minister to coordinate with the provincial government in its efforts to restore peace in Karachi, was not available for comments as he left for Lahore today. However, a warning by Interior Ministry against opposition move to observe protest day on Friday is considered as significant.

It is generally believed that the situation in Karachi needed a political approach and could not be improved by harsh administrative measures. In view of the planned all parties conference on Sind situation such punitive measures would further aggravate the situation in Karachi, frustrating the basic purpose of the proposed all parties conference, they said.

Our Karachi office adds: Meanwhile a stir was created in the city today as rumours spread that an FIR [First Information Report] has been registered with the Liaquatabad Police Station against five top leaders of MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] on charges of murder, arson etc. However, the SSP [Senior Superintendent of Police] Central of the area when contacted denied the registration of FIR and said the report was baseless.

However, the MQM sources said they have the information that there was a move to apprehend their top leaders, but expressed satisfaction that top quarters in Islamabad have intervened to save the situation.

PPP, MQM Release Captive 'Activists' in Sind

BK1202094490 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 Feb 90 p 8

[Excerpt] Karachi, Feb. 11—At least 18 activists of Pakistan People's Party [PPP] and nine of the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] who were abducted during the last couple of days were released on Sunday [11 February].

Their release was secured on the intervention of Corps Commander Lt. General Asif Nawaz who directed Major General Abdul Moeed, Inspector General of Sind Force to act as a coordinator between the two groups.

At the local level the PPP was represented by Rashid Rabbani, President PPP Karachi Division and from the MQM side by Raziq Khan, Deputy Speaker of the Sind Assembly.

Both the sides which held lengthy deliberations since last three days finally agreed to free the above persons who were abducted by their men and kept at known places.

The abductees mostly students were brought to the Sind Force Headquarters from where they were released and handed over to their partymen.

The MQM activists were taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital while the PPP activists were taken to the Aga Khan Hospital.

According to the doctors some of the abductees were tortured and were being treated.

After the release of these 27 persons it is hoped that more swaps would take place in the coming days. [passage omitted]

Authorities Foil Heroin Smuggling Attempt

BK1202093890 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 Feb 90 p 6

[Text] Peshawar, Feb 11—An attempt to smuggle 213 kilograms of heroin has been foiled by the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board [PNCB] authorities on Canal road in the university town area Sunday.

The PNCB officials on a tip blocked the university Canal road leading to Bara. When the suspected Honda Civic car bearing fake registration number of German Embassy CD-22-AF was signalled to stop, it sped up. The Narcotics men opened fire at the speeding car and compelled it to stop after bursting its tyre.

In the meantime, the smugglers opened fire at the PNCB officials from another car providing protection to the drug-traffickers.

Sri Lanka

Tamil 'Militants' Kill 7 Indian Soldiers 11 Feb

BK1302023290 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Seven IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] soldiers have been killed in an ambush by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] near Trincomalee in northeast Sri Lanka. An IPKF press release from Madras says that the soldiers were returning to their base camp after reconstruction work last night when the LTTE attacked their vehicle.

The peacekeeping force have launched a combing operation to capture the militants responsible for the ambush.

Task Force Commandos Arrest Monaragala JVP Chief

BK1302095790 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0846 GMT 13 Feb 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 13 (LANKAPUVATH)—The JVP's [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna's] area leader of Monaragala (Uva Province) was arrested by Special Task Force commandos yesterday. A government communique issued today further states that in the north central province district of Anuradhapura one subversive who was in possession of a hand grenade was arrested by Sri Lankan forces while 4 others surrendered to the forces at Hidogama. One subversive was shot dead by Sri Lankan forces at Urapola in the central province district of Kandy. In the western province district of Kalutara, during a search operation, security forces recovered a radio transmitting set and a power pack. In the eastern province's Amparai area security forces arrested 2 subversives.

Meanwhile in the Central Province's Kandy area unidentified armed men abducted P.G. Punchirala and P. Weerakoon from their residence at Minigamuwa. Weerakoon's wife died of shock due to the abduction of her husband.

LTTE Wing Demands New Election in Northeast

BK1302110790 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0952 GMT 13 Feb 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 13 (LANKAPUVATH)—The People's Front of Liberation Tigers (PFLT), the political wing of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], yesterday claimed that peace and normalcy were fast returning to the north eastern region where the people were experiencing a great sense of relief following the withdrawal of the Indian Army in most districts and the virtual disintegration of the Tamil National Army (TNA). "We are confident that the remaining Indian troops will be withdrawn much earlier than the March 31 deadline and the remnants of the TNA will soon be dismantled," the politburo of the PFLT said. It said in a statement issued yesterday that over 30,000 refugees who sought asylum in Colombo and the suburbs due to IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] and TNA atrocities have returned to the areas of Jaffna Peninsula vacated by the Indian Army. "We expect several thousand Tamil refugees who fled to south India and Europe as a consequence of Indo-LTTE war to return since the Indians are on the verge of final withdrawal," the statement said.

"The time has come for the Sri Lankan Government to contemplate action to dissolve the defunct North-Eastern Provincial Council and to hold fresh elections to fill the political vacuum. The Tamil and Muslim people have not been allowed to elect their representatives through a fair and free election and those who claim to represent them in parliament and the Northeast Provincial Council were fraudulently installed by the Indian Army and the RAW [Research and Analysis Wing]. They have no credibility and legitimacy to speak on behalf of the Tamil and Muslim people," the PFLT statement declared.

The politburo has also expressed hope that the president, who is genuinely concerned about the restoration of peace, would pursue meaningful steps to resolve the ethnic conflict.

Over 2,500 Subversives 'Under Rehabilitation'

BK1302103190 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0849 GMT 13 Feb 90

["OANA/pool" item; all figures as received]

[Text] Colombo, 13 Feb (LANKAPUVATH)—Over 2,500 subversives who surrendered are being rehabilitated at several centres set up by the Sri Lanka Government.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that a total of 2,511 subversives are under rehabilitation at centres situated in different parts of the country.

The sources said that 178 were at Gamunupura, 218 at Kalapaluwawa, 288 at Ratmalana, 300 at Kuliyapitiya, 296 at Polgolla, 296 at Hardy Institute, and 83 at Bastian pilgrim's rest, Ampara, 77 at Wagolla in Kegalle, 130 at Keppitipola in Badulla, 211 at Rathnamalee pilgrim's rest and 137 under security forces and police.

Official sources also said that a total of 6,767 persons have been detained by the security forces at a number of camps in the country.

2,226 persons have been detained at Boosa, 50 at the Welisara camp, 591 at Pallekelle, 1055 at Punani, 1184 at Pelawatte, 1,270 under security forces/police custody and 391 under prison custody.